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'ARAFAT SENDS NOTE TO WALDHEIM PROTESTING ISRAEL'S ACTIONS

NC060748Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 6 Dec 78 NC

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Abu 'Ammar yesterday sent a note to UN Secretary General Dr Waldheim condemning the arbitrary actions of the Israeli authorities who are destroying the houses of Palestinian citizens in the occupied West Bank.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said that these criminal and inhuman actions reveal Israel's racist and colonialist nature. The note points out that the Zionist occupation authorities blew up two houses in the villages of (Silwad and Kafr Qali) near occupied Jerusalem 2 days ago, on the pretext that their owners are members of fedayeen organizations.

Concluding his note, brother Abu 'Ammar says: In the name of the PLO, I condemn these aggressive actions. I request the United Nations to denounce them because they violate the most basic human rights.

The commander in chief asked the UN Secretary General to circulate the note among the UN member-states to acquaint them with Israel's flagrant violation of human rights and the Geneva conventions on protecting civilians in time of war.

Criticizes United States in Interview

JN051613Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1400 GMT 5 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Armed Forces, has granted an interview to the U.S. CBS TV network. Brother Abu 'Ammar fiercely criticized the conspiracies of the United States, Egypt and the Zionist entity hatched at Camp David--conspiracies aimed at the Palestinian Arab people.

Addressing the American people, Abu 'Ammar explained that the Palestinian people were bitterly disappointed with the agreements signed in Washington. Abu 'Ammar added: It is crystal clear that those agreements will not bring about the peace we have been waiting for in the Middle East. He denounced the autonomy proposal for the West Bank and Gaza Strip and stressed that the U.S. administration committed a new crime against the Palestinians when it proposed autonomy instead of self-determination for our people.

He said: This conspiracy is another step backward when compared to the UN Security Council resolutions issued several years ago regarding the Palestinian people. This conspiracy also contradicts the U.S.-Soviet joint statement on the Middle East issued in October 1977.

Abu 'Ammar reiterated that the 4 million Palestinian people insist on regaining their legitimate rights to self-determination, establishment of their state and to their own homeland. Abu 'Ammar also attacked the U.S. policy of continuing to refuse to recognize the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The United States does this at a time when 105 countries, all UN members, have recognized the PLO, which is building good relations with all these countries. Washington is conducting a misleading campaign to blame the PLO for all the world's evils.

Brother Abu 'Ammar again stressed the need for the Soviet Union's participation in all discussions and talks on the Middle East. He said: The Arab peoples cannot see any real peace in the area without USSR participation.

PLO OFFICIAL VIEWS PALESTINIAN PROGRAM, BUDGET FOR COMING PHASE

JN051713Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1315 GMT 5 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 5 December--Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashahshibi, PLO Executive Committee secretary, has said that the proposed PLO political program will outline the basic features of action and struggle during the coming phase. In an interview with the daily AL-BA'ITH published here today, An-Nashahshibi emphasized that the Executive Committee has been asked to draw up a working plan for the next phase to implement the proposed program, which will include and reiterate our people's determination regarding their inalienable national rights and our insistence on Palestine as a homeland and on not denying the Palestinian people's history. Speaking of the proposed agenda for the forthcoming session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] to be held in (January), An-Nashahshibi explained that the PNC will discuss the proposed political program as well as a report prepared by the PLO Executive Committee. This report will brief PNC members on the committee's activities and achievements during the preceding period. He added that the PNC will discuss the financial report and the proposed budget prepared by the PLO Executive Committee. This budget will be different from those previous in that it will cover the needs of the PLO and all the fedayeen factions. This is because all PLO's resources will be unified and will flow into the Palestinian National fund. Eventually, this will require reorganization of expenditures on all PLO factions and activities. This will definitely secure national unity.

MORE ON ARAB ECONOMIC COUNCIL MEETINGS IN DUBAYY

JN051316Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Dec 78 JN

[Reportage on the proceedings of the 32d session of the Arab Economic Unity Council, meeting 5 December in Dubayy]

[Text] Dubayy, 5 December--Dr Fakhri Qadduri, the Arab Economic Unity Council president, called in his report to the conference for establishment of an Arab wheat organization. He explained that establishing such an organization is essential to cope with the intentions to create an international wheat cartel. Dr Qadduri said that the Arab homeland is facing serious food crises because it spends \$5 million daily to import food. Dr Qadduri said that these crises will be exacerbated with the emergence of international food cartels. Dr Qadduri warned that the Zionist enemy is making plans for a new phase of expansion, aimed at infiltrating Arab countries' economies so it can dominate them and make them subservient to the economic power centers' interests.

Among those who also spoke at the opening session were Hasan 'Ali, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and minister of trade. 'Ali warned against the dangers and problems from which the Arab economy suffers. He explained that the crises affecting the Arab economy stem from the world economy's impact on the area. He said this requires all of us to be aware of this fact and to take responsible and serious steps to save the Arab economy. He said we must intensify our just economic struggle to protect the Arab economy and to protect the Arab nation itself from the new economic onslaught, particularly from the Zionist campaign to create a Middle East market as an alternative to the Arab Common Market. Concluding his speech, 'Ali affirmed that Iraq is prepared to support any joint Arab action benefiting the Arab nation. At the conclusion of the opening session, the Arab Economic Unity Council held a secret session. During the session, a committee was formed under Shaykh Sultan al-Mu'alla, chairman of the current session and UAE minister of economy and trade. The committee comprises the chairmen of the delegations of Iraq, Syria, the PDRY, and the YAR. The committee will discuss procedural matters to save time and will submit its findings in the form of recommendations to be discussed and approved by the conference.

KUWAIT

AS-SIYASAH: THOSE WAGERING ON SHAH'S DOWNFALL 'HAVE LOST'

ID051905Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 30 Nov 78 pp 1, 2, ID

[Ahmad al-Jarallah article: "Wagering on the Iranian Situation"]

[Text] Will the shah fall? This is the question often asked not only in gulf circles but throughout the world. But regionally the question is being asked more persistently, as if the shah's downfall will take place at any moment. It is no secret that the shah's initial position was very critical and faced extremely serious dangers. But, naturally, any political administration that manages to weather the initial dangers and eventually succeeds in containing them will give itself a better opportunity to take stock of options that would be in its favor.

The opposition and those against the shah have on two counts acted in ways that were not in their favor.

First, there is the fact that the opposition was in a hurry to assume power. The left wanted power, as did the religious leaders. For their part, the Soviets exacerbated the power struggle through their intensive press criticism of the Iranian religious leaders, thus openly revealing that they have a direct interest in the leftists, rather than the religious opposition, assuming power. With the Soviets' emergence in direct support of a section of the alliance opposed to the shah, the shah has been able to score an important point against that alliance. This is because the direct Soviet presence in Iran is acceptable neither to the other powers--the United States--nor to the countries of the area itself. These countries do not conceal their concern over the increasing Soviet influence in an important and sensitive area, which basically disagrees with the Soviets on ideological matters.

The second point is the fact that the religious leaders are not qualified to succeed the shah's rule. Religious rule of a state such as Iran will be difficult to accept on both the regional and international levels; it would be acceptable neither to the Soviets, who showed disapproval, nor to the Americans.

The Soviets have a direct interest in the shah's downfall, but they are primarily interested in seeing their supporters among the leftists and communists in power. Therefore, the Soviets would prefer to see the shah remain in office to seeing the religious leaders take over power, as they would probably strike mercilessly at the communists and the pro-Moscow people in future.

Therefore, those who are wagering on the shah's downfall have lost. That is unless the army moves in directly, which is unlikely, as it seems to be the shah's ally.

In any case, it must be recognized that what has happened in Iran was in the interest of the Iranian national movement, since it has been proven that unless the ruler depends on his people he will eventually lose. For however powerful the security organ, the ruler cannot resist the people's will when they revolt through despair and when corruption reaches unacceptable levels.

The situation has been a profound lesson for the shah from which he will benefit in coming years, years of action in the interest of the Iranian nation.

KUWAIT DENIES REPORTS OF COORDINATION COUNCIL WITH SAUDIS

ID060902Y Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 6 Dec 78 ID

[Text] Kuwait--The Ministry of Information here has denied press reports that Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia may set up a joint supreme council for coordination and cooperation, under the cochairmanship of Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah, crown prince and Council of Ministers chairman, and Prince Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers.

These reports have been published in local Kuwaiti papers following the talks held by Shaykh Sa'd with Prince Fahd during the shaykh's visit to Saudi Arabia on the first stage of a gulf tour. The Ministry of Information, in a statement issued today, [words indistinct] these reports are incorrect.

The statement notes that what the two countries have agreed to set up is a follow-up committee in which the Kuwaiti side is to be headed by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, while the Saudi side is to be headed by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister.

SAUDI ARABIA

U.S. SENATOR BYRD ARRIVES IN RIYADH 5 DECEMBER

ID051850Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1602 GMT 5 Dec 78 ID

[Excerpt] Riyadh--Senator Robert Byrd, U.S. Senate majority leader, arrived in Riyadh this evening, with an accompanying delegation, on a visit to the kingdom as part of his current tour to Middle Eastern states.

Received by Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz

ID051928Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1825 GMT 5 Dec 78 ID

[Text] Riyadh--This evening, His Royal Highness the Regent and Deputy Prime Minister Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received U.S. Senator Robert Byrd, U.S. Senate majority leader.

Meets With King

ID061046Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0815 GMT 6 Dec 78 ID

[Text] Riyadh--His Majesty King Khalid Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received U.S. Senator Robert Byrd at his office at the Royal Palace in Al-Ma'dhar this morning. Senator Byrd, U.S. Democratic majority leader, is currently on a visit to the kingdom.

The meeting was attended by Dr Rashad Far'awn, his majesty's private adviser, and by U.S. Ambassador to the kingdom Mr John West. Senator Byrd arrived in the kingdom last night on a visit within his current tour to a number of the region's countries.

'UKAZ: JEWISH LOBBY TRIES TO HAMPER U.S.-SAUDI RELATIONS

ID060855Y Jidda 'UKAZ 2n Arabic 20 Nov 78 p 3 ID

[Amin Sa'ati U.S. dispatch: "Jewish Organizations Fighting Saudi Role in United States Through Three Channels: Hampering Saudi-U.S. Economic and Technical Cooperation; Jewish Lobby Allegations That the King Faysal Chair Shows U.S. Bias in Favor of Saudi Arabia; and Jewish Lobby Infiltration of U.S. Black Muslim Organizations"]

[Excerpts] Those who discuss the future Saudi role on the Arab and international planes point out that the kingdom's role in the next 20 years will increase to the point where it will become positively and directly influential in many world problems and issues. In other words, the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, as a member of the IMF Management Council, has acquired a strong and influential voice in the fund's decisions and, as a consequence, an influential say in the decisions of other world organizations in several fields. Consequently, this would naturally allow the kingdom's moral, economic and political influence on the course of world politics to become greater. Perhaps the first to realize the effect of this increasing Saudi influence on world politics are the Jews, particularly the U.S. Jews, who persistently and shrewdly monitor the Arabs' activities in all fields and throughout the world, seeking to abort them and undermine their effectiveness, so that they will not affect their own activities and devious plans.

The King Faysal Chair of Islamic Studies, established in the University of Southern California, is the target of intensive attack by Jewish organizations and in various media.

The U.S. ABC TV network last week interviewed the head of a Jewish organization in Los Angeles, who spoke about the danger of establishing the King Faysal Chair in an American university. He said the chair would aid scholars devoting studies to distorting Jewish history and creating bias in favor of Islamic studies.

MacMahon, a Jew, stressed the need to dismiss Professor Beling, head of the International Relations Department at the university, claiming that he was behind the creation of this chair.

The Los Angeles TIMES, a leading California paper, published three long articles criticizing the university and demanding the abolition of the chair's affiliation to any country or personality. The paper said that the chair receives financial donations from Saudi Arabia as well as from some U.S. companies undertaking major projects in the kingdom, such as the (Flor) company, which is building the petrochemical plant in Al-Jubayl.

The press campaign against the King Faysal Chair also included the university's daily paper, the TRIBUNE. Jewish student organizations published a series of articles attacking Professor Beling, denouncing the establishment of this chair, pointing to its dangers to Jewish thought, and regarding it as a sort of bias against U.S. Jews. The Jewish organizations have been trying in every way possible to destroy the King Faysal Chair of Islamic Studies since it was first established. The media campaign was preceded by a campaign of personal contacts by a large number of Jews with university officials in order to abolish the center. Since the campaign failed, the center is now the target of a systematic and planned media campaign, aimed at undermining it and abolishing Islamic studies. Professor Beling declined to discuss the matter, saying: The media campaign against us is too strong and we must therefore remain silent until it dies down.

The second target of the Jewish organizations' campaigns these days is Saudi-U.S. rapprochement, which is evident in the strong economic and cultural cooperation between the kingdom and the United States, particularly the U.S. contribution to Saudi development projects.

Jewish organizations have directed their campaigns against such rapprochement, pointing to its potential influence on U.S. decisionmaking. Some papers even went to the extent of saying that growing U.S. interests in Saudi Arabia mean increasing Saudi influence on the U.S. administration and, consequently, the possibility of Saudi influence on the decisions of U.S. politicians--influence which world Zionism has been anxious to preserve as exclusively its own and, as a result of which, past U.S. congressional decisions to support Israel were made with absolutely no opposition. Therefore, the Jewish lobby is afraid to lose this advantage and will find it difficult to wrest decisions from the Congress as it did in the past. In demonstrating the danger of the increasing strength of U.S.-Saudi relations, the Jewish lobby points to the majority of votes favoring the fighter aircraft deal with Saudi Arabia and Egypt, in return for giving Israel the F16 plane--something which never happened before in the history of congressional voting.

Despite the fact that the Jews are strongly resisting Saudi-U.S. relations, these relations are continuously growing. The Saudi-U.S. joint commission established in 1974, when His Highness Amir Fahd visited the United States, is exerting great effort to achieve further bilateral economic and technical cooperation.

As His Excellency Finance Minister Muhammad Aba al-Khayl said, the joint commission's work represents the largest technical cooperation program with any foreign country.

A review of such cooperation clearly shows that U.S.-Saudi relations are growing and becoming stronger and that the Jewish lobby, which tries to hamper cooperation projects, will fail in its objectives. Nevertheless, it will continue to watch every step and to oppose and create difficulties in order to achieve even a minimum of its objectives.

Just as the Jewish lobby seeks to prevent Saudi presence in the field of culture and knowledge in the University of Southern California and to curb development of U.S.-Saudi relations, it is also trying to cast doubt on relations between Islamic organizations in the kingdom and the U.S. Black Muslim organizations or, rather, what is known as the Islamic lobby in the United States.

The Jewish organizations have been able to convince Wallace Muhammad, head of the biggest Islamic organization, known as the World Islamic Community--previously known as the Islamic Nation--that Saudi Arabia exercises racism against blacks in Mecca, despite the fact that it is the cradle and the source of Islam. In fact, Wallace Muhammad was hasty in denouncing the alleged racism, although he visited the kingdom more than once and saw for himself that there is absolutely no racism in the kingdom and that it is the only state in the Islamic world where the Koran laws are applied and people are equal.

Perhaps the danger represented by Jewish organizations for U.S. Black Muslim organizations lies in the fact that Jewish capital operates side by side with the latter's capital in joint investments. Thus in the future the Jews, with their well-known shrewdness and persistence, will be able to influence these organizations' thoughts and inclinations. We must therefore act before it is too late.

Why would Saudi Arabia's international influence increase over the next 20 years? A research work published by the American (Birnik) research institution shows that demand for energy will increase 4.1 percent against GNP and will double between 1976 and 1990. [paragraph continues]

In other words, it will increase from 31.1 million barrels per day in 1976 to 43.7 million barrels per day in 1985 and to 55.7 million barrels per day in 1990. If that happens, U.S. oil imports will increase to 14.5 million barrels per day and world demand to 55.7 million barrels per day in 1985 and 70.2 million barrels per day in 1990.

Thus the Arab countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, will play a basic role in international politics, especially if we take into consideration, as the research points out, that there will be a decline in output of oil-producing countries such as Iran, Venezuela, Algeria, Nigeria, Indonesia, Ecuador and Gabon. The fall will reach 3.5 million barrels per day in 1990, which makes it incumbent on the other countries to compensate the increase in demand by increasing production by 74 percent.

The study concentrates on Saudi Arabia in particular and the need to ~~increase~~ its production by 100 percent. But the study points out that the kingdom's technical and economic absorption capabilities will not be able to handle this.

Therefore, on the international plane, the "glow" of the kingdom's wise policy will impose itself on further international fields. On the domestic level, with its slight recoil, the kingdom is preparing for a new leap that will generate new and beneficial projects. Twenty years from now, the kingdom will have completed the infrastructure of its wide and varied national production, and oil will thus become only a part of and not the whole of the national income.

YAR PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN RIYADH ON OFFICIAL VISIT

JNO51343Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Dec 78 JN

[Excerpts] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, arrived in Riyadh at 1130 today at head of a delegation on an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the invitation of his brother King Khalid Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. His excellency the president was accorded a grand official reception.

After a short interval at the airport, His Majesty King Khalid accompanied his guest to An-Nasiriyah Palace, the residence President Salih will occupy during his visit to Saudi Arabia. Upon arriving at An-Nasiriyah Palace, President Salih held short talks with his brother King Khalid. Official talks are due to begin this evening between the two sides.

President Salih and the accompanying delegation left San'a' International Airport at 0930. The president was accorded an official and popular send-off. The vice president and chairman of the Constituent People's Council, Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, led those who saw the president off.

Our leader and president, Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, talked to journalists at the airport. He explained the nature of his visit to Saudi Arabia, saying: My visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, God willing, will consolidate cooperation between the two fraternal countries. During this visit, we will exchange viewpoints with our Saudi brothers regarding issues of common bilateral interest and issues of interest to the countries in the area and the Arab countries in general.

The accompanying delegation consists of Lt Col Lutfi (al-Qiladi), chief of the presidency office; Yahya Jugman, personal representative of the president; 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, foreign minister; Engineer 'Abdallah al-Kurshumi, minister of public works; 'Ali Wasi ath-Thawr, minister of development; Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman as-Samawi, minister of finance and others.

President Salih has issued a decree appointing Lt Col 'Ali Salih Hasibah, chief of staff, commander in chief of the armed forces during his absence. Foreign Minister al-Asnaj talked to journalists and affirmed that the president's visit to Saudi Arabia comes at the invitation of His Majesty King Khalid Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to hold talks on bilateral cooperation and coordination, as well as to further consolidate bilateral relations.

King Khalid Hosts Dinner

LDO51842Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1620 GMT 5 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpts] Riyadh--This evening, King Khalid Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz gave a dinner banquet at his majesty's palace in honor of Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, YAR president, and his accompanying delegation, who arrived in Riyadh at noon today.

Meets With Defense Minister

LDO52256Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Prince Sultan Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation, called on YAR President, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih this evening at his residence in the guest palace, where they held a closed meeting. SNA has learned that during this meeting they reviewed a number of issues of interest to the kingdom and the YAR, chiefly concerning bilateral relations.

COOPERATION DISCUSSED WITH KUWAITI FINANCE MINISTER

LDO42314Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad al-Ali Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy, has said that he discussed today with Kuwaiti Finance Minister 'Abd ar-Rahman Salim al-Atiqi results of the meetings of the Saudi-Kuwaiti economic cooperation mixed commission, and measures which the two governments have taken in accordance with these meetings. He said that during the meeting a review was made of the two countries' economic cooperation agreement, and that it was agreed to take new steps to increase economic linkage between the two countries with regard to the two countries' citizens' ownership, in the other country, of houses for their residence or for the purpose of personal investment. They also agreed on executive measures to implement this. Shaykh Aba al-Khayl added that agreement was reached on the method by which the two countries' organizations and companies can carry out their activities in the other country, and the method to organize this. During the meeting, a review was made of the question of the industrial coordination committee, and it was agreed that direct contacts should take place between concerned organizations in both countries. With regard to private sector cooperation, he said that there were more than 20 companies jointly owned by Saudis and Kuwaitis, in addition to companies which have been established among the gulf countries. During this month, Shaykh al-Khayl added, a new agreement will be signed among the gulf countries on land transport.

KUWAITI PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON SAUDI-KUWAITI PLENUM

LDO42316Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 2120 GMT 4 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpts] Riyadh--The plenary meeting which the Kuwaiti and Saudi sides held tonight lasted 4 hours.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, heir apparent and Kuwaiti prime minister, said after the meeting that the current Arab situation and bilateral relations were reviewed. His highness stressed that this meeting was characterized by a spirit of fraternity and the sincere desire among brothers in the kingdom to cooperate with Kuwait in all fields. He said that agreement has been reached on issuing a statement containing all points agreed upon at this meeting.

His Royal Highness Prince Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, emphasized that agreement was reached on all matters and that they are in the interest of both the two countries and of the Arab world.

YEMEN--YAR

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY BEGINS THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

JN050941Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Dec 78 JN

[Text] At 1030 today, the Constituent People's Assembly held the first meeting of its third annual session under Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, vice president and chairman of the Constituent People's Assembly. Al-'Arashi opened the session in the name of God and the people and delivered the opening speech.

Al-'Arashi Addresses Assembly

JN050943Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Dec 78 JN

[Text Of the opening speech to the YAR Constituent People's Assembly third annual session on 4 December by Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, YAR vice president and chairman of the Constituent People's Assembly--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] In the name of God the merciful and the compassionate; brother members of the People's Constituent Assembly: We are meeting in the final annual session of this respected assembly with everyone examining his conscience, reviewing whether we have achieved the various tasks with which this assembly has been entrusted. We can say with pride that, despite the short span of this assembly, it has succeeded in adopting several economic and social legislative acts.

Brother members of the Constituent People's Assembly: At this historic moment, and before the assembly begins to discuss the agenda, permit me to review the events and new circumstances that occurred after the tragic martyrdom of our late president, Lt Col Ahmad Husaya al-Ghashmi. Treacherous hands tried to dispatch saboteurs and to export death to the north of our country. These treacherous hands, aided by those who are called socialists, sought to overthrow our democratic regime, to take Yemen back to the beginning of the road, to backwardness, to the middle ages. They plotted with their foreign masters. They received dollars and silent weapons for this purpose via the diplomatic pouch in violation of all norms and regulations, which stipulate that diplomatic pouches should not be used for harmful purposes. Our democracy was exploited for evil purposes, to bring harm and destruction to our people.

Brother members: It would have been more appropriate if the state which caused the loss of many innocent victims had sent us the money to build schools, hospitals, and roads, as other friendly and fraternal countries are doing. This would help us in eliminating the backwardness we inherited from the previous regime. It would have been more appropriate for this party to have sent arms to the countries facing the Zionist enemy [words indistinct] Palestine and pan-Arabism.

Brother members: Our people reacted to this tragedy with patience, because our people, thank God, under this regime, have learned to distinguish between friend and foe, between [words indistinct] and destructive relations.

Brother members, representatives of our people: We appeal to the world, to the peace-loving nations, to all democratic parliaments in the world to stand by democracy and freedom everywhere, and especially to those who are seeking to reverse the course of history with dollars and weapons when there still are countries in Asia, Africa, and other places suffering under the yoke of noncolonialism. Peace be upon you.

Assembly Issues Statement to People

JN050955Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Dec 78 JN

[Text of statement to the Yemeni people from the Constituent People's Assembly meeting, issued at its 4 December meeting]

[Excerpts] In the name of God the merciful and the compassionate: While holding the first meeting of its third annual session, the Constituent People's Assembly would like to record its strong denunciation of the childish and foolish actions some agent factions carried out on 15 October against our national democratic regime and its wise patriotic command under the leadership of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. These actions were aimed at undermining stability in this part of the Yemeni homeland and at dividing our national unity. This assembly takes this opportunity to reiterate its complete confidence in the command of the leader, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The assembly also takes this opportunity to express its appreciation for the heroic role played by our courageous armed forces, public security groups, tribesmen, and our Yemeni people in foiling the conspiracy in its initial stages. The assembly also strongly condemns the conspiratorial role played by some brothers in support of these agent factions, as was revealed in the just and public investigations which took place in the homeland.

PRESIDENT APPOINTS COMMANDER OF AL-JAWF PROVINCE

JN031914Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Dec 78 JN

[Text] The president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces has issued Decision No 32 of 1978, appointing the commander of Al-Jawf Province. The decision reads: After taking cognizance of the permanent constitution, command council Decision No 1 of 1974, the constitutional proclamation of 22 October 1978, the constitutional proclamation of 10 February 1978, and the officers' service law No 16 of 1975, and in accordance with the recommendation of the officers' committee and the chief of staff, the president of the republic decides:

Article 1: Lt Col Ahmad 'Ali al-Khawlani shall be appointed as the commander of Al-Jawf Province.

Article 2: This decision shall be in force as of the date of its issuance. This decision shall be published in the official gazette and in the armed forces' publications. Issued at the general command on 3 December 1978.

[Signed] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces.

REPORTAGE, COMMENT CONTINUES ON BULGARIAN EMBASSY INCIDENT

Egypt Breaks Relations

NC051704Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 5 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 5 December--Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ambassador Sa'd 'Afrah this evening received Georgi Vladikov, the Bulgarian Ambassador in Cairo, and conveyed to him Egypt's decision to break its diplomatic relations with Bulgaria and the reasons for this decision.

Members of the Bulgarian Embassy are expected to leave Cairo within the next 3 days.

Foreign Ministry Statement

NC051832Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 5 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 5 December--A Foreign Ministry spokesman has affirmed that the actions of the Bulgarian Embassy employees in Cairo constitute a violation of diplomatic practice and the Vienna agreement on diplomatic relations, which provides that those who enjoy diplomatic immunity should respect the laws of the state they are accredited to, not interfere in its internal affairs and use the privileges and diplomatic immunity in a manner that does not exceed the limits of their work.

The text of the statement issued by a Foreign Ministry spokesman today follows:

The circumstances which led to part of the regrettable incident which took place at the building occupied by the Bulgarian Embassy were as follows: The Bulgarian Embassy in Cairo occupies a three-story building which it bought some time ago. The embassy reached agreement with the residents of the first and third floors to vacate their apartments, but was unable to reach agreement with the residents of the second floor--Engineer Fu'ad Tahir and his family--who stuck to their legal right to stay in the house.

The spokesman said that the Bulgarian Embassy resorted to the use of provocative security measures against the family of Engineer Fu'ad Tahir and their visitors, asking to search them when they left or entered the building and asking them for identification, causing them and their visitors much inconvenience. This apart from the fact that such measures limit their legal right and personal freedom to use their own house.

Following a quarrel between the wife of Engineer Fu'ad Tahir and some members of the embassy about these provocative measures, the embassy guard attacked the wife and her two daughters, injuring them. The wife and her two daughters called for the help of nearby residents. The Bulgarian security guards opened fire with various weapons. This prompted the residents to throw stones at the embassy. The security forces then intervened and reinforced the guard on the embassy to protect it and its staff.

There is no doubt that the actions of the Bulgarian Embassy constitute a violation of diplomatic practice and the Vienna agreement on diplomatic relations, which provides in Article 41 that those who enjoy the laws of the state they are accredited to, not interfere in its internal affairs and use the privileges and diplomatic immunity in a manner that does not exceed the limits of their work.

The spokesman for the Egyptian Foreign Ministry indicated that the intervention of the security forces was through the common entrance of the building, which is used by the family of Engineer Fu'ad Tahir, who live on the second floor of the building, and which is not covered by diplomatic immunity. This intervention was for the purpose of protecting the building which the embassy occupies, protecting the residents, safeguarding the dignity of the Egyptian citizen and preventing the deterioration of the situation.

The spokesman said: All these things make it clear that the staffers of the Bulgarian Embassy have acted in a way which is detrimental to the dignity and rights of the Egyptian citizen and which is regarded as a blatant violation of diplomatic norms. While in all its actions Egypt was careful not to allow this incident to go beyond its natural limits, the Bulgarian Government chose to ask the staff of the Egyptian Embassy in Sofia to leave the country, and in view of this the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt has decided to break its diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

Commentator Attacks Bulgaria

NC051431Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Dec 78 NC

['Abd al-'Azim Hammad commentary]

[Excerpts] Naturally, we agree that the Bulgarian Government is completely free to withdraw the staff of its embassy in Egypt at any time it wants. Furthermore, the Bulgarian Government is completely free to ask the Egyptian ambassador accredited there to leave Sofia, because this is the business of the Bulgarian Government, despite the extent of the malicious emotionalism and fabrication which we perceive behind this step.

However, when the Bulgarian Government totally and suspiciously disregards the fact that the staff at its embassy in Cairo violated the norms of diplomatic action, and when this government claims that its decision to summon its ambassador from Cairo, and to ask the Egyptian ambassador to leave Sofia is because the Egyptian Government has made usual business a scrupulous pause. One pauses at this point not to elucidate or explain Egypt's position, because this attitude requires no explanation to those holding objective and impartial views. However, one pauses to determine what lies behind Bulgaria's emotionalism.

It is our right at this point to ask how the Bulgarian Government figures out that its diplomats have the right to privileges which empower them to attack Egyptians and provoke the Egyptian authorities without having to account for such actions. We do not want to belittle Bulgaria nor do we want to discuss the servile relations which bind Bulgaria and the Soviet Union. We only wonder: Is insuring the right of aggression and provocation a prerequisite for the staffers of the Bulgarian Embassy and, consequently, of other embassies to continue working?

It is the duty of the Egyptian Government to confront attempts to harm its sovereignty over its own territory and to slight its citizens' dignity.

As far as the Bulgarian Government's decision to withdraw its ambassador from Cairo, and to ask the Egyptian ambassador to leave Sofia, is concerned, we have seen how rash and frail is the argument on which the Bulgarian Government has tried to shoulder Egypt with responsibility for this decision. Consequently, it is impossible to consider this decision as the result of a misunderstanding. However, and most likely, this decision is the result of stronger motives which are inevitably related to the eastern bloc's present attitude toward Egypt.

Egypt's policy of independence from the interests of the world blocs and the fact that Egypt's policy is incompatible with the interests of these blocs have induced some quarters to unleash their wrath against Egypt. Nevertheless, Egypt remains the same Egypt. Attempts at putting pressure and at exercising coercion have failed to subdue Egypt's will or harm it. It is imperative for all the angry quarters to return to their senses. Otherwise, Egypt stands to lose nothing because they are angry. They alone are the losers.

Embassy's 'Subversive Role' Noted

NC0609020Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 6 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 6 December--Cairo newspapers today give prominence to President Carter's decision to send Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to Cairo and Israel. The papers also devote much of their front-page space to the news of Egypt's severing of diplomatic relations with Bulgaria as an answer to the deportation of the Egyptian Embassy staff from Sofia. The interrogation of the Bulgarian Embassy guard, the papers say, will begin today.

AL-AKHBAR and AL-JUMHURIYAH comment on the assault by the Bulgarian Embassy staff on an Egyptian family. AL-AKHBAR says that this criminal act was not a spontaneous emotional reaction but an act characterized by premeditation, persistence and determination.

AL-AKHBAR adds: The Bulgarian Embassy's crime exceeded all limits and reached the point of opening fire on the Egyptian people in their own homeland. The Egyptian Government had to deal with this criminal attitude to uphold the supremacy of the law and the honor of the Egyptian citizen in his own country.

The paper continues: This is not all there is about the Bulgarian Embassy. As we know, Bulgaria is a communist state--a very extreme communist state; it only says and does what Moscow wants. It has been carried away with its communist anti-Egypt extremism, particularly since the peace initiative and the beginning of the peace talks. The Bulgarian Embassy has been a center of hostility and agitation against Egypt. Investigation has proved that it had strong connections with one of the rejectionist states which was preoccupied with hatching subversive and terrorist plots in Egypt. It was not an embassy, it was an arms cache and a center of suspect connections, so much so that the embassy staff burned the papers confirming such connections and contacts, lest they be incriminated. This is why the Bulgarian Government quickly withdrew its ambassador and embassy staff from Cairo.

It does not bother us and we are not at all sorry that Bulgaria has closed its embassy and recalled its staff and that we have severed our diplomatic relations with it. This does not harm us or our interests in anyway. In fact it is a great gain for us because it rids us of a center for criminal agitation and communist trouble which has been brewing behind a curtain of diplomatic immunity exploited in every suspect act against Egypt, its policy, and its people.

Bulgaria and those behind Bulgaria, AL-AKHBAR says, must understand that we are free in our own country.

Consular, Trade Relations Continue

NC052200Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpts] The radio correspondent has learned that Egypt's decision to break relations with Bulgaria is confined to diplomatic relations, without affecting consular and trade relations between the two countries.

The Foreign Ministry has left it up to the Bulgarian ambassador to set the date for his departure with his embassy staff. The correspondent has also learned that the Bulgarian aircraft that arrived in Cairo this evening will take off after the Bulgarian ambassador grants his permission and that Egypt has no objection to this.

Egypt has also asked the Bulgarian ambassador to insure the safety of the Egyptian Embassy staff in Sofia. The Foreign Ministry has instructed the Egyptian Embassy staff to leave Sofia for the nearest capital.

The Bulgarian ambassador will meet tomorrow with Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sa'd 'Afram to complete discussions on the arrangements related to Egypt's decision to break diplomatic relations with Bulgaria.

MINISTER 'ALI MAKES STATEMENT TO ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE

NC052028Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1842 GMT 5 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 5 December--Defense and War Production Minister Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali has affirmed that the armed forces are continuing to work with all vigor and determination and with the glorious October spirit in order to remain strong and advanced in weapons, training and thought, fully prepared to carry out their task at any time and in any direction to achieve the security and strategy of Egypt and its Arab and African responsibilities.

The defense minister said that the responsibilities of the armed forces in peace are the same as in war. Strong and advanced armed forces are the strong and impregnable shield which protects the homeland and imposes peace. They are the force that insures the road to freedom and glory.

In a statement he delivered today to the joint meeting of the Foreign Relations, Arab Affairs and National Security committees of the People's Assembly, chaired by Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib, Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali pointed out that peace is the hope of all nations and the essence of their civilizations and progress. The armed forces believe that peace must be backed by advanced armed forces capable of fulfilling their role with the highest degree of efficiency to confront any challenges that threaten national security. This will make it possible for the homeland to keep its banners flying and have the best conditions to advance toward the bright future with peace and strength. Peace will then become an effective means of achieving progress under the leadership of the supreme commander of the armed forces, President Anwar as-Sadat.

The defense minister affirmed that the armed forces will participate with their capabilities and resources in pushing forward the wheel of construction and development. He also affirmed that the armed forces believe that peace must be backed by an armed force capable of performing its role with the highest degree of efficiency.

Regarding the policy on armament and production, Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali noted in his statement to the people's committees the importance of armament for the development of the armed forces and for maintaining their combat capability and efficiency, particularly during the conditions of total embargo imposed by the Soviet Union. He said that the armed forces had to overcome the problems and difficulties resulting from this embargo.

The defense minister added that the armed forces were able, thanks to intensive efforts, to conclude several agreements with many friendly states to secure weapons and military equipment. The financial aid which some Arab states provided until 1977 contributed much to the financing of the major part of these arms deals, with the state treasury bearing little of the cost.

Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali pointed out that although some Arab states have suspended their aid this year as a result of a lack of political understanding, maximum efforts have been made to fulfill the armament demands of the armed forces, continuing the policy of diversification of the sources of arms through long-term agreements and contracts.

With regard to the policy of arms production on the Arab level, the defense minister said that the higher committee of the Arab military industries organization decided at its recent meetings on a strategy that includes the production of modern fighter aircraft, antitank missiles, electronic equipment and jeep vehicles. Work in these projects will be on the basis of partnership with foreign companies, and the foreign capital in these projects must not exceed 49 percent.

Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the establishment of such industries will require a long time and huge investments, therefore, the results of such projects will not appear soon, but will appear in the long term.

Concerning the ministry's war production policy, the defense minister in his statement to the People's Assembly specified the targets of this sector as increasing production by no less than 10 percent yearly, the quantitative and qualitative development of military products and the introduction of new war industries by setting up an industry for heavy armament, electronics and missile launchers. In this respect, he stated that measures are being taken to sign contracts for the establishment of the night visibility weapons industry, to overhaul and renew the present arms, to complete the projects underway and to provide markets for marketing military products. He pointed out that exports during the 1975-1977 period amounted to approximately \$70 million.

Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali explained that the military production target for 1979 is 225 million pounds, compared with the goal of 195 million pounds expected to be reached this year, in order to meet the needs of the armed forces for spare parts for military equipment and in order to increase the local production rate for some types of military products.

Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali affirmed that the armed forces will always remain the pioneers and will take the lead in extending aid to the Arab and friendly African states in the struggle they are waging to achieve their freedom and independence.

The armed forces will always play a pioneering role in order to foil the world communist designs being actively pursued to outflank the area, divide the African Continent and penetrate the Arab area.

The defense minister noted that acting on this premise, Egypt has extended diversified and effective aid to a large number of Arab and African states in sensitive locations, such as Zaire, Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda, Chad, Togo, Somalia and Eritrea.

In his statement, the defense minister stressed the importance of the Red Sea remaining an Arab sea and of the strong and firm control of this sea by its littoral Arab states. He asked these states to act in total military solidarity in order to offset hostile designs and so that the Red Sea will not become a sphere of influence over which the big states will compete for control.

Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali added: It is imperative for us to be alert to the current communist attempts at the southern entrance to the Red Sea. These attempts are aimed at controlling this sea and it is imperative for us to foil them through all means in cooperation with the Arab and friendly states which overlook its two coasts.

The defense minister emphasized that the armed forces spare no efforts in extending the aid required of them, particularly from the Arab states and the friendly African states. Our armed forces open their training installations to those who come from these states in order to graduate qualified officers and other ranks. This is in addition to sending Egyptian military experts drawn from among officers and other ranks to some of these states, which have come to depend on Egypt for the training of their armed forces. Egypt does this out of its belief in its historic responsibilities.

Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali then spoke about the role of the armed forces in assisting the civilian sector in development plans. He said that agreement has been reached with the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Cairo Governorate that the military Engineering Corps will repair and rebuild some 500,000 square meters of Cairo roads during the coming year and supply the governorate with a number of bridges for pedestrian crossings after conducting detailed studies for these projects with the governorate.

The defense minister also said that agreement has been reached with the telecommunications authority for the armed forces signal corps to carry out a number of projects, including the Cairo-Al-Fayyum cable line. Work on this project will begin in January and will be completed by the end of the year. There is also the underground network project in Cairo for the central telephone exchanges in Nasir City, Al-Mazah, the Opera and Shubra. The telecommunications authority will import the necessary materials for this network and work will start as soon as the materials are available. There is also the Shubra-Qalyub cable and the Shubra-Al-Qanatir cable. Implementation will begin at the end of April. There is also the project to lay 16 submarine cables across the Nile near the Abu al-'Ala bridge, and the cable project from the central exchange in Shubra to Shubra al-Khaymah through [words indistinct].

With regard to housing projects, Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the central department for projects in the armed forces has before it plans for four factories for prefabricated houses which can meet the needs of the armed forces in the 5-year plan for the establishment of military towns and other installations. He said the accomplishment of these projects and movement of the armed forces to these military towns will ease the pressure on transportation facilities and the various utility networks, in addition to the training of technical cadres by the armed forces departments to operate similar factories.

The defense minister affirmed that the armed forces transportation capabilities are always ready to assist the civilian sector. He said that the Defense Ministry's An-Nasir chemicals company supplies 10 tons of hydrochloric acid daily to the electricity generation stations of the Cairo water authority.

Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that coordination has been made with the responsible authorities for the Printing and Publication Department of the armed forces to assist in the printing of university books, especially the books of the Ministry of Education.

The defense minister referred at the conclusion of his statement to the readiness of the armed forces to share in vocational training in all fields to meet the shortage in vocational training in the state.

'ABD AL-MAJID ADDRESSES UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NC052256Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 5 Dec 78 NC

[Text] New York, 5 December--Egyptian chief UN delegate Dr 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid has affirmed that the Middle East is now passing through a serious and decisive phase, because there will either be a viable and just peace in the area to include all its peoples and states, or there will be a return to the policy of stagnation and stalling.

Such a state of affairs will push the area toward a dangerous situation which will affect the peace and security of the whole world.

In the statement he delivered this evening to the UN General Assembly at the outset of the assembly's discussion of the Middle East issue, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt has made it clear several times at the General Assembly that the international community, represented by the United Nations, is alert to the possible results of the continuation of the present situation and of the stalling maneuvers to which the peace process is being subjected.

He added that the General Assembly realizes its responsibility to express on behalf of the whole of the international community categorical rejection of everything tending to perpetuate the Israeli occupation, delay a solution or continue the disrespect for the principles of the charter or its objectives.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid expressed his belief that it is imperative for the international community to encourage all efforts which tend to generate momentum toward a lasting and just settlement and to stand sternly against everything tending to halt the peace process or subvert its progress.

The Egyptian chief delegate said: Egypt has sought and still seeks, patiently and diligently, to recover the rights of the Arabs and to save the Arab territories from the Israeli occupation. There can be no doubt that the whole international community has followed Egypt's efforts, particularly in the wake of President as-Sadat's initiative last year--and the secretary general has noted these efforts in his recent report. So far, these efforts have resulted in the Camp David documents. I want to affirm at this point that these documents are not the end, but the beginning, of the road and the framework of the just and lasting peace for which we all aspire and for which we all work. As President as-Sadat has said, the Camp David documents are an essential step in this direction.

'Abd al-Majid added: During the debate, I submitted to the General Assembly the outlines of the Camp David documents and our explanation of these documents. Allow me to affirm once again our stance in this respect, which is based on the following:

Since the Israeli aggression against the Arab states and the occupation of the territories of three Arab states, the international community, particularly at the United Nations, has consistently emphasized the need for the full implementation of all points of Security Council Resolution 242. The international community has also confirmed the need to struggle by all means to end the Israeli occupation and recover the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. This is why document one, entitled "A Framework for Peace in the Middle East," has carefully emphasized that the peaceful settlement is based on all clauses of Security Council Resolution 242. As you know, the most important of these clauses states the impermissibility of seizing the territory of others by war. Furthermore, the document has stipulated that peace in the Middle East must be based on the principles of the UN Charter and the norms of international law--and this is what Egypt has always advocated.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that the international community has voiced its concern over the stagnant situation in the Middle East and the perpetuation of the present state of affairs. Therefore, the international community has called for the creation of the necessary circumstances which would lead to surmounting the difficulties and obstacles Israel has tried to impose on the international community. This community has always affirmed what we have frequently advocated, that a just peace in the Middle East must be set up on the basis of total Israeli withdrawal and the recovery of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

'Abd al-Majid added: Egypt has based its policy on this premise. Egypt has worked and struggled since 1967 by the means and potentials at its disposal for the sake of these two objectives, beginning with the passage of Resolution 242 and up to the mission of the secretary general's envoy Ambassador Gunnar Jarring and the quadripartite discussions in New York, in addition to the countless initiatives made at various international meetings.

The October 1973 war changed the situation completely and definitively moved it out of the stagnation in which the situation had almost drowned because of Israel's intransigence and its policy of stalling.

The Egyptian permanent representative said that Israel had tried to contain the results of the October War and return to the policy of procrastination and obstruction. Then President as-Sadat made his initiative in November 1977 to set things in motion and devote efforts to achieving a just and lasting peace in the area.

Here we must assert two basic principles: the Camp David documents represent frameworks for efforts to achieve peace; and Egypt is seeking a comprehensive settlement which must take into consideration the rights of the Palestinian people and Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, including Arab Jerusalem, which we consider an indivisible part of the West Bank. Any changes which Israel has introduced in this holy city are unacceptable. We are supported in this matter by the international community, including the Security Council. Israel must come to grips with the elements of the establishment of permanent peace in the Middle East and its responsibility toward the whole world.

He added that the principles and provisions regarding the West Bank and Gaza aim at creating a new situation that will cancel the Israeli plans and realize the just Arab demands, particularly the participation of all sides in the negotiations for the solution of the Palestinian problem with all its dimensions and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, as stipulated clearly in the Camp David documents. We still believe that the crux of the problem is the Palestinian issue. President as-Sadat emphasized this fact clearly in his message on 29 November during the celebration of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Dr 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt's position on the issue of the Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories is known, and not only the General Assembly but also the Security Council shares our view.

He added: The principles and framework for the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai lead to the confirmation of the application of the principle of withdrawal to the international borders. This also applies to the Golan and confirms the international interpretation of Resolution 242--that it calls for withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and not from parts of them.

Concluding his speech, Dr 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt's foreign policy is based on respect for the Egyptian will and respect for the legitimate common interests with the various states. Egypt rejects entry into (the spheres of influence) of the big powers and rejects the policy of axes, both foreign and regional. This has been our policy from the time we refused to join foreign alliances and since the 23 July revolution. Egypt will firmly resist any attempt to divert us from this firm national line. [words indistinct].

U.S. ENVOY HANDS MUBARAK ISRAEL'S REPLY TO LETTER

NC052047Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Dec 78 NC

[Text] The radio correspondent has learned that Husni Mubarak has received U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts. Eilts handed the vice president the reply of Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin to President as-Sadat's recent letter.

MENA REPORTS IMPENDING VANCE VISIT TO AREA

NC051935Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Washington, 5 December--The MENA Washington correspondent has learned that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will arrive in Cairo from London on Sunday.

Vance will leave Washington for London Friday evening. Saturday, Secretary Vance will address the Royal Society for International Affairs on (?British)-U.S. relations.

President as-Sadat is expected to receive Cyrus Vance. Furthermore, the U.S. secretary of state will meet with Dr Mustafa Khalil, who is scheduled to return to Cairo Saturday on the conclusion of his present tour.

Mr Vance is expected to remain in Cairo until Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin returns from Oslo after receiving the Nobel Prize.

The correspondent has learned that Mr Vance will be accompanied on this visit by Ambassador Alfred Atherton; Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders; Michael Sterner, specialist on Middle Eastern affairs in the U.S. National Security Council; and Dr William Quandt.

Observers believe that U.S. President Carter's decision to send his secretary of state to the area at this time is highly significant in that it indicates that the United States is determined to narrow the gap now existing between Egypt and Israel on the autonomy plan and the transfer of authority to the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

Observers also hold the view that this decision emphasizes the U.S. determination to give special priority to the Middle East issue after Mr Vance has decided to send [passage indistinct].

The U.S. Government is expected to make an official announcement this evening on Mr Vance's visit to Cairo and Israel.

Observers expect Vance to revert to shuttle diplomacy through his visits next week to Egypt and Israel until the present difficulties are resolved.

GHALI NOTES OBSTACLES TO SIGNING PEACE TREATY

NC060904Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0735 6 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 December--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has said that there are obstacles to signing the peace treaty and that these obstacles are mainly connected with the need to set a timetable for the withdrawal from, and the establishment of the autonomous institutions in, the West Bank and Gaza to achieve the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. In an exclusive statement to the magazine AKHIR SA'AH today, the minister of state for foreign affairs said that the parties to the Camp David summit have fixed a period of 3 months for signing the peace treaty, but that it is difficult to meet this deadline now. Therefore, he says, it is possible for the parties to postpone this deadline and to agree on a new date.

Ghali said that if one of the parties rejects this, then this will mean that it is rejecting peace. However, he does not expect such a rejection because the U.S. side, in its capacity as a full partner, will undoubtedly approve the postponement. The negotiations, he said, will thus continue in order to overcome the remaining obstacles.

Dr Ghali said that the aim of the intensive Egyptian moves at this stage, including the visit of Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil to a number of European capitals and the visits of Presidential Assistants Mamduh Salim and Sayyid Mar'i to eastern and central African states, is to explain the Egyptian position on the need to link the steps which will be taken in Sinai with the steps to be taken in Gaza and the West Bank, and also to explain Egypt's adherence to a timetable in the West Bank and Gaza.

Dr Ghali discussed an important point, namely, the dangers which will be facing the Middle East area, particularly after the statement by U.S. Energy Secretary James Schlesinger, as a result of increasing Soviet influence in the area. He says that Egypt's policy is based on rejecting any foreign ideological, military and economic interference.

Ghali stressed that Egypt's policy is based on the philosophy of nonalignment and on searching for the values, principles and concepts stemming from our society and rejecting imported values and concepts in matters related to foreign and domestic policy. He pointed out to the dangers facing the Middle East area, saying: The dangers arise from our fear that the cold war could be transferred from Asia or Europe to the Middle East and the African Continent and that our countries could become areas of confrontation between the two giants, whether this be direct confrontation or a confrontation through agent powers.

Dr Ghali says that in its capacity as the chairman of the current session of the OAU, Sudan can play a conciliatory role in the African disputes and seek to settle them within an African framework. As for Egypt, he adds, it is fully prepared to participate in this conciliatory role if asked.

Concluding his statement, Dr Ghali says: In its capacity as an African state, Egypt has responsibilities in Africa to eliminate imperialism which still exists in the southern part of Africa, to end racist discrimination and to help in and contribute toward the development of Africa.

PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON TALKS WITH CEAUDESCU, TITO

LD060026Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 5 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpts] Belgrade--Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil stated that he had explained to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu during their meeting today Egypt's attitude toward the peace talks and pointed out to him that Egypt will not sign a separate agreement with Israel and that the Egyptian-Israeli treaty must be linked to the West Bank and Gaza.

In his statement to a MENA correspondent Dr Mustafa Khalil said that he will inform President Tito of the full picture of Egypt's position and of the contents of President as-Sadat's message to President Carter.

Dr Khalil paid tribute to President Tito and his leading role in the nonaligned movement and expressed Egypt's appreciation of the Yugoslav president and his recent statements about the Middle East and his support for Arab questions, particularly in respect to Egypt.

Dr Khalil added that Egypt is looking forward to greater strength and depth in relations with Yugoslavia. He continued: President Tito is playing an effective role and his suggestions are exceedingly important.

SPOKESMAN DENOUNCES DEMOLITION OF W. BANK HOUSES

NCO51546Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1527 GMT 5 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 5 December--An official spokesman of the Foreign Ministry has stated that Egypt has received with much regret news agency reports that the Israeli occupation authorities have demolished some houses belonging to Arabs in the occupied West Bank on the grounds that these Arabs belong to Fedayeen organizations.

The spokesman said that the Arab Republic of Egypt strongly condemns these practices, which constitute a flagrant violation of the 1949 Geneva convention on the protection of civilians in wartime. These practices also constitute a blatant violation of human rights and are viewed as one among the serious violations which have been condemned by all international quarters, headed by the United Nations, the Human Rights Committee and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The spokesman added that while condemning Israel's reversion to these terrorist methods against the compatriots of the occupied territories, the Arab Republic of Egypt holds the view that such an action radically conflicts with the efforts being made to provide a comprehensive settlement for the Middle East crisis. The Arab Republic of Egypt warns against reverting to such violations, which endanger peace and security in the area.

MAGAZINE DENIES REPORTED CONTACTS WITH PALESTINIANS

NCO60910Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 6 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 December--The magazine AKHIR SA'AH today affirms that there have been no contacts between Presidential Assistant Sayyid Mar'i and the Palestinian leadership recently, and that he has not met with anyone from the PLO since President as-Sadat's initiative in November 1977.

The magazine says that Sayyid Mar'i decided this after the campaign launched by these leaders against Egypt and its leader and since the PLO began to cast doubt on the initiative and the peace efforts.

AKHIR SA'AH says that the Lebanese newspaper AL-HAWADITH, now published in London, quoted Yasir 'Arafat as saying that he received a message from Sayyid Mar'i following the Camp David agreements.

MASSIVE SOVIET ARMS DELIVERIES TO LIBYA REPORTED

NCO60905Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0742 GMT 6 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 December--The magazine AKHIR SA'AH says today that U.S. sources have confirmed that the Soviet Union has recently shipped to Libya massive quantities of arms and military equipment exceeding the Libyan Army's capacity. The magazine adds that there are no trained Libyan technicians or militarymen capable of operating these military supplies which include three submarines, 60 tanks with infrared equipment, two squadrons of the new (?Tu-28) fighter aircraft and a large quantity of surface-to-surface missiles.

AKHIR SA'AH says that Moscow made it a condition that the submarines and the missiles in particular be operated by Soviet experts.

COMMUNIST PARTY INVEIGHS BA' THIST HARASSMENT

LDO51707Y Baghdad HARIQ ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Nov 78 pp 1, 7 LD

[Excerpts] Relations between the members of Progressive Patriotic and Nationalist Forces in Iraq are the focus of great interest not only in the domestic field but also on the Arab and international planes.

The interest in such relations increases in proportion to developments in the political conditions which the area has witnessed and is still witnessing--conditions in which imperialism and its Zionist and reactionary allies are demonstrating their greed and in which conspiracies against the Arab liberation movement and the achievements realized by its forces and factions, particularly its progressive regimes, are escalating. On the other hand there is an increasing realization and efforts are being exerted to consolidate and deepen alliances between the members of the progressive forces in every country in particular and on the level of the Arab homeland in general.

For this reason our party, on the basis of its experience and the experience of every nationalist movement both in Iraq and abroad, has considered the question of alliance relations between the national parties and forces to be one of the most important tasks facing our movement and a basic condition for success in achieving the objectives which our revolutionary march is striving for internally, particularly with regard to construction and social change, as well as for achieving our national objectives.

The relations of alliance between the nationalist forces and parties of our people become even more important in the circumstances such as those in which the Arab nation finds itself and in which our national liberation movement is the target of imperialist-Zionist-reactionary conspiracies which have considerably increased. This is evident in the Camp David resolutions and the subsequent attempts by the hostile forces to impose the liquidation of the cause of the Palestinian Arab people and to prevent the liberation of the Arab territories occupied by the Zionist forces.

Therefore, imperialism and its Zionist and reactionary allies have sought to destroy the alliance achieved by our people's parties and forces and has long attempted to conspire against and break this alliance.

Consequently, it is exceptionally difficult to defend this alliance with equal vigor and in accordance with the provisions of the National Action Charter and the rules of action within the front of the Progressive Patriotic and Nationalist Forces. Armed with this firm belief, our party has done and is doing all it can to check the deterioration in the relations between the two [communist and Ba'thist] parties, not only to defend our people's achievement as a result of the alliance but also to develop the alliance on the largest possible scale.

Such tasks are in fact beyond the ability of one party alone or of an individual force and are unattainable without the collective efforts of the masses of our people and their Progressive Patriotic and Nationalist Forces, since this alliance is their own achievement and their proven weapon not only on the general level but also on the level of achieving their progressive programs and developing both their struggle and their loyalty to it.

There would have been no need for us to reiterate the obvious, especially in these present conditions, had it not been for the fact that realities indicate that persecution and harassment on a large scale against our communist party's organizations, comrades, friends and press are continuing and escalating.

All those observing this phenomenon are aware that for more than 1 year it has been increasing and widening and that it is worsening in such a manner that it could only cause the greatest damage to the achievements realized by our progressive march, would expose it to dangers, and, as a consequence, would create a suitable atmosphere for the reactionary forces' activities and, among other things, facilitate and provide for these forces the chances of successfully striking at our people's important and progressive gains achieved on all levels.

Out of our desire to clarify the facts of the case we have tried--and we are trying again in this article--to explain this situation and its details to the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party command whether through meetings or memorandums. Such efforts have, unfortunately, failed to lead to the adoption of measures that would stop these conditions and to the creation of a suitable atmosphere to discuss their causes and results in the light of the National Action Charter and the history of the struggle relations between the two parties.

TRADE MINISTER DISCUSSES COOPERATION WITH SYRIA

JN060909Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 6 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 6 December--Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and trade minister has said here that the ministry has acted carefully and quickly to lay down firm foundations to establish trade and economic relations between Iraq and Syria to insure establishment of integrated economic unity between the two countries.

In an interview published in the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH, 'Ali said that the Trade Ministry issued instructions to all its establishments to act quickly to stimulate and double the exchange of commodities between the two fraternal countries.

'Ali said that agreement has been reached to increase economic and trade relations in various fields. In this respect he pointed to the joint minutes of the trade sub-committee of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Technical Cooperation. He also pointed to the meetings that have been held between representatives of the import and export sectors in the two fraternal countries. He said that the results of these meetings are embodied in the conclusion of trade deals that involve many commodities. This is in addition to drawing up a new export framework that will take into account the needs of the Syrian and Iraqi markets in their capacity as one market. According to this framework, Iraqi commodities will be insured for Syrian markets to meet their needs and the Iraqi markets' need for Syrian goods will be provided from Syria instead of importing foreign goods.

'Ali stressed the importance of developing unionist awareness between exporters and importers in the two countries so as to direct their efforts toward expanding trade integration between them in harmony with the spirit of joint interests of the two countries.

SHARIF SHARAF TO CONVEY HUSAYN MESSAGE TO AL-QADHDHAFI

JN060723Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Dec 78 p 1 JN

[Text] Amman--AR-RA'Y has learned that the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, His Excellency Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, will leave for Tripoli today on a mission. He will meet with leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi to convey His Majesty King Husayn's message to the Libyan leader concerning current developments in the Arab area.

LEBANESE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN AMMAN

JN052110Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Amin al-Hafiz, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, arrived in Amman this evening on an official visit of several days to Jordan. He expressed happiness over visiting Jordan and thanks for the invitation. He praised Jordan's pan-Arab stand and efforts to unify the Arab stand. Al-Hafiz was received at the airport by Ahmad al-Tarawinah, deputy speaker of the National Consultative Council, a number of the council's members and other officials.

U.S. CALLED UPON TO REASSESS STAND TOWARD ISRAEL

JN051859Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Dec 78 JN

[Text] The Egyptian-Israeli negotiations are again moving toward a deadlock, as a result of Israel's intransigent stand based on a clear and specific strategy, which is to sign a reconciliation treaty with Egypt without linking it to any other Arab or Palestinian commitments.

Yesterday, Israeli circles disclosed some of the contents of Begin's reply to President as-Sadat's latest message. These sources said that Begin adhered to the stand the cabinet adopted a week ago. This stand maintains that Israel is not prepared to sign a reconciliation treaty on the basis of the U.S. compromise, rejects any amendments to the treaty provisions and refuses to link it to the future of the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. At the same time, the Egyptian Government is stressing the need to amend the sixth provision of the treaty. This provision, as it now stands, gives preference to the treaty over Egypt's agreements with the Arab countries. Egypt is also stressing the need to link the treaty to a timetable that determines the measures of self-rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Despite the fact that the concessions Egypt has made to persuade Israel to sign the treaty on the basis of the Camp David resolutions go beyond all reasonable limits, Israel's adherence to its intransigent stand shows the extent of Israel's intent to hold negotiations without real substance, in a clear attempt to embarrass and force the Egyptian leadership to withdraw from the negotiations. Most observers believe that Israel insisted on mentioning Jordan's name in the Camp David provisions so that Jordan would reject and abstain from these negotiations. This is what happened after conclusion of the Camp David agreements.

Certain circles have tried to suggest that the Israeli plans have succeeded in isolating Egypt from its Arab atmosphere in preparation for signing a separate agreement. However, Egypt's emphasis at the current stage, as stated by the Egyptian defense minister, on Egypt's commitments to other Arab countries and its insistence to refuse to sign the prepared reconciliation treaty, have prompted Israel to disclose its true stand, rejecting peace in the Middle East.

Israel did not participate in the negotiations to achieve a just and lasting Middle East peace. Proof of this is that the Camp David agreements are opposed to the basic principles of peace. Further proof is Israel's declared stand on the future of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Arab Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Heights. Israel participated in the negotiations in the hope of dividing the Arab stand, fragmenting the Arab world and neutralizing the Egyptian role in preparation for implementing its aggressive and expansionist plans both northward and eastward.

Although we are certain that the United States and Egypt realize the dimensions of Israel's aims behind its participation in the negotiations, we hope that Egypt will further increase its adherence to its Arab affiliation and to the Arab nation's cause. We also hope that, in light of Israel's intransigent stand, the United States will reassess its stand in preparing to return to the UN resolutions. The UN secretary general stressed in his call not to forget these resolutions, in a last bid by the world community to impose a just peace according to the UN principles, charter and resolutions concerning the Middle East conflict.

'SAVAGE' ISRAELI DEMOLITION OF WEST BANK HOUSES DECRIED

JN060946Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 6 Dec 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] AD-DUSTUR writes: It is no coincidence that Israel is returning at this particular time to demolishing Arab houses in the West Bank. This exercise was denounced by the whole world and stopped some time ago. The return to these savage acts is significant and linked to the current argument among Israel, Egypt and the United States over the proposed self-rule for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Israel's demolition of Arab houses there is meant to emphasize the continuation of its existence in these areas and its determination to have a free hand to do whatever it wants, even though Egypt and the United States are having dialog on self-rule. This fact is corroborated by the Israeli view that self-rule is confined to municipal services. Self-rule in Israeli eyes means no power over territory and water for the local inhabitants and empowers Israel to establish new settlements and to fill them with settlers. This view has been formalized in a document drawn up by an Israeli committee, setting forth the specifications of self-rule. Concluding its editorial, AD-DUSTUR says that the ordeal of our people in the occupied land is a concrete demonstration of Israel's ambitions in these lands. A true remedy can only be achieved through a well-organized and unified action to establish a comprehensive and just peace in the area and not through a self-rule that lets Israel retain all power in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and use the Palestinians as a veneer to legalize its savage practices.

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN--Amman, JNA--A contract covering the third phase of expanding the Husayn thermal station in Az-Zarqa' was signed yesterday between the Jordanian Electricity Authority and a group of Japanese companies. According to the contract, the group of Japanese companies will construct three steam generators, each with a 66 MW capacity, bringing the total capacity of the Husayn thermal station to 330 MW. The total value of the offer is \$90 million. Arab funds in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and the Arab-African Bank will participate in financing the contract. The contract was signed for the Jordanian Electricity Authority by Engineer 'Ali an-Nusur, director general of the authority; and for the Japanese contracting company, C. Itch, by (Takeo Masodal), company vice president. [Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Dec 78 p 2 JN]

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS ON SECURITY SITUATION 5 DEC

NC052048Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 5 Dec 78 NC

[Text] The official spokesman of the Lebanese Forces Command has stated that the security situation deteriorated this afternoon because of (?Syrian) fire on populated areas. The spokesman added: The Lebanese Forces Command reaffirms that all units of the Lebanese forces continue to abide completely by the cease-fire.

It was learned this evening that the areas of Badaru, Chevrolet and As-Sayfi are coming under sniper fire and occasional intensive gunfire. Three civilians were wounded near Ad-Dabbas. One is a girl named Siham, who was hit by a DSHK bullet. She was taken to the hospital.

Explosions are heard from time to time in various parts of the capital. It emerged that they mark the birthday of the late Kamal Junblatt.

On the other hand, five people were wounded today by sniper fire on the axes of the southern suburb. The roads near the combat lines continued to require caution throughout the day.

ADF Issue Statement

NC051838Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Dec 78 NC

[5 December statement by responsible source of Arab Deterrent Forces Command--read by announcer]

[Text] The armed militias continued their provocations against the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] and resumed, at noon, the sniping on the international highway, on the As-Sayyad-Gallerie Sim'an traffic circle, Mar Mikhayil and the As-Sayyad-Chevrolet traffic circle. These actions led to the cutting off of these roads which were recently the scene of an encouraging and intensive volume of traffic.

The armed men have thus cut off the two main roads, the As-Sayyad-Furn ash-Shubbak traffic circle and the As-Sayyad-Mar Mikhayil traffic circle, on the eve of the Arab followup committee meeting.

Calm is still prevailing in the commercial markets and the port. However, armed manifestations and armed men continue to be present in these places. The ADF are still adhering to the cease-fire orders.

Reinforcements Reported

NC060716Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 6 Dec 78 NC

[Text] RPG projectiles were fired last night on the Ad-Dabbas-Pigalle axis in the heart of the capital. Armed reinforcements continued near Al-'Azariyah west of Al-Burj.

The heavy and successive explosions heard before midnight in some areas of Beirut were, it was reported, to mark the birthday of Kamal Junblatt.

It was reported this morning that the sniping which began last night in the southern suburb continued intermittently this morning, especially on the Al-Hadath-al-Hazimiyah road across the Chevrolet.

GOVERNOR OF KASRAWAN SAYS SECURITY SITUATION CALM

NC051719Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Our correspondent in Kasrawan, Antoine Sa'adah, says that the acting governor of Kasrawan, Talal Rashid, stated today that the security situation in Kasrawan is completely calm and that no particular disruptions of security occurred today, as was rumored by some circles.

Governor Rashid noted that all the administrative organs in the district are functioning normally and in a routing manner.

INTERIOR MINISTER REVIEWS SECURITY SITUATION

NC051348Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Interior Minister Dr Salah Salman this morning met with the acting director general of the internal security forces, Col Sami Tabbarah, and with the commander of the traffic department, Major Miqdad.

After the meeting, Minister Salman said: Following the deterioration of the traffic situation in Beirut and its approaches, and following the increase in people's complaints, I met today with some officials who are responsible for the traffic so as to find out about the measures which they have taken--or intend to take--to end this problem. We decided to summon the higher authority for traffic to meet and submit the necessary solutions as soon as possible.

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON ARAB FOLLOWUP COMMITTEE MEETING

NC051454Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Upon leaving the presidential palace after attending the ceremony during which the new British ambassador submitted his credentials to his excellency the president, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus was asked his opinion about the work of the Arab followup committee which held its first meeting today. Minister Butrus replied: I express my best wishes and hope that the committee will pass from the stage of discussions to the stage of implementation in an appropriate manner.

To another question, Minister Butrus replied: We must not always live in the past, but must have hopes for the future. In spite of the proverb which says history repeats itself, there are always surprises. It is not reasonable to expect things to remain static and frozen, not resolving themselves one day.

To another question, Minister Butrus replied: The diplomatic activities in Lebanon at this stage will be confined, first, to the continuous work at the Foreign Ministry, and second, to the arrival tomorrow of the Vatican delegation. Naturally, this will increase the diplomatic activities.

Further on Butrus Statements

NC051755Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpts] Upon leaving the presidential palace after attending the ceremony during which the new British ambassador submitted his credentials to the president, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus was asked some questions concerning the current meetings and moves.

Asked whether it is possible to find a connection among the Vatican's moves, the French moves and the forthcoming American moves concerning the Lebanese situation, and whether it can be stated that these moves are coordinated, Foreign Minister Butrus replied: This is mere speculation. All of these moves are independent of each other--whether on the Arab level or the foreign level. However, there are naturally common denominators among all of these moves which are bound to appear during one phase or another.

The foreign minister was further asked about reports that French diplomatic circles--represented by Minister of State Olivier Stern--are asking to meet with Lebanese personalities in Paris in the light of President Sarkis' visit. Foreign minister Butrus commented: I know nothing of the sort. I think the question is not completely accurate.

SHI'ITES THREAT OF VIOLENCE DIRECTED AGAINST LIBYANS

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 24 Nov 78 p 14 WA

[Text] Leaflets issued by the Amal Movement, the military wing of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, headed by Imam Musa as-Sadr, have been distributed in Beirut and in other parts of Lebanon. Imam as-Sadr disappeared under strange circumstances on 31 August 1978, during his official visit to Libya.

These leaflets carried clear warnings to Arab officials that soon it will be time to resort to terrorism to avenge the disappearance of Imam Musa as-Sadr and that there is no more room for patience over his disappearance. What has not been said in these threats has been verbalized by Shi'ite Islamic Council sources which have affirmed that a decision was made to carry out revenge operations if the fate of Imam as-Sadr and his two companions is not explained before the beginning of the month [December]. It is certainly evident that the resorting to violence to avenge Imam as-Sadr is directed principally against Libyan officials and Libyan installations because everything that the Shi'ite Council has [learned] from its investigations of the circumstances of the disappearance holds Libya responsible. Muhammad Shu'aytu, at a meeting attended by a number of members of the Islamic Grouping, had read a report in the name of the Higher Islamic Council which came to the final conclusion that the Imam did not leave Libyan territory.

MINISTER DISCUSSES AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION WITH JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR

JN061007Y Amman JNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 6 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 6 December--Jordanian Ambassador Sa'id Hamami yesterday discussed agricultural cooperation with Syrian agriculture and Agrarian Reform Minister Ahmad Qablan. They also conducted a comprehensive review of the steps between Jordan and Syria for coordinated and integrated action in agricultural marketing. They affirmed the need to consolidate these steps for the good and benefit of the agricultural economy in the two countries.

MINISTER OF ELECTRICITY LEAVES FOR ROMANIA

JN051044Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 5 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 5 Dec--Minister of Electricity Ahmad 'Umar Yusuf this morning left Damascus for the Socialist Republic of Romania at the head of delegation from the Ministry of Electricity at the invitation of his Romanian counterpart to discuss the exchange of expertise in the field of electricity and increasing cooperation between the two countries. The minister will pay a similar visit to Czechoslovakia for the same purpose.

PAPER COMMENTS ON VANCE'S FORTHCOMING MIDDLE EAST TOUR

JN060900Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Dec 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] MENA, In a dispatch from Washington, reports that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will visit the Middle East area this weekend for talks with Egyptian and Israeli officials on the recent developments involving the peace negotiations. He will attempt to break the deadlock affecting the negotiations between the representatives of the two sides to sign a capitulationist peace treaty.

TISHRIN writes, under the title "The Difficulties of the Enemies Must Be Transformed Into a Defeat": Although the Carter administration publicly eschewed Kissinger diplomacy in implementing U.S. policy in the Middle East when it first took office, it has now adopted his policy, goals, and his approach, including the shuttle diplomacy. The actions of the Carter administration during the process of As-Sadat's capitulationist course show that U.S. pressure throughout the phases of negotiations has been applied to As-Sadat's regime. Whenever the capitulationist negotiations have faced obstacle or deadlocks, the concessions have been made by one side only: namely, the As-Sadat regime. The result has been a victory for the Israeli essential demands, particularly the separate agreements, the annexation of lands, rejection of the principle of withdrawal, rejection of the right of self-determination for the Palestinians, rejection of the Palestinian state, and rejection of recognition of the PLO.

A comparison of these demands with the results of the negotiations based on the Camp David agreements shows that all the Israeli demands have been achieved while As-Sadat's regime has renounced all previous Egyptian stands. In other words, As-Sadat's regime has renounced all joint Arab stands, the resolutions of the Arab summit conference, and the crux of the UN resolutions.

TISHRIN adds: Today, when As-Sadat's regime appears as if it is making demands and adopting stands in the negotiations, it is doing so because of the pressure of the collective Arab decisions adopted in the Baghdad summit conference and the pressure of the general indignation in Egypt. This is a desperate attempt to defend itself and to delude others that As-Sadat's regime can say yes or no in the negotiations.

ALGERIA

OPPOSITIONISTS SEEK 'DEMOCRATIC LEFTWING' SOLUTION

LDO51201Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 23 Nov 78 pp 1, 3 LD

[MAP report on statement by the "Algerian Socialist Revolution Party": "A Struggle Must Be Waged To Insure the Disappearance of a Regime Hated by Everybody"]

[Text] Paris, 22 Nov (MAP)--The Algerian Socialist Revolution Party [PRSA], which is led by Mr Boudiaf, has published the following statement entitled One Successor Only--The People :

Following 2 months of denials and mendacious statements, the official information media have just admitted that the state of Boumediene's health is critical (according to some sources he has even died) and that, therefore, he is unable to govern the country.

This means that it has officially been admitted that there is a power vacuum. It has been asserted in a communique that power is now, in fact, exercised by the "Council of the Revolution," but it is generally known how far such statements can be believed.

Thus, the regime has violated its own legality, since the constitution provides for no such council. In any case, as a result of liquidations and disappearances, its membership has rapidly been reduced over a period of 13 years from 26 to 8. This has not prevented it from being deeply divided, and the same applies to the government, which has not met for the past 2 months. Despite reassuring statements to fool Algerian opinion, the succession is open and a trial of strength among various claims at the top has already started. It appears that tanks are ready to intervene and that the Republican Guard is standing by. Police control has been strengthened.

According to information received, two groups are facing one another. One of them is led by Bouteflika and supported by business interests. The other is led by Yahiaoui and seems to enjoy the support of a section of the military and the Soviets.

Such conflicts demonstrate the inability of this kind of regime to outlive men and reveal the artificial nature of institutions which only serve to camouflage absolute power and authoritarian government.

But let those who are preparing in the shadows for further coups know that the Algerian people will not tolerate the continuation of a dictatorial system and of a catastrophic policy, and that they will rise up against all those who are dreaming of strengthening the totalitarian system and against all those who would shoulder the responsibility for inflicting fire and bloodshed on the country to preserve their privileges and satisfy their ambitions.

To avert clashes which would pave the way for foreign interference, the PRSA calls on all sound forces, whether outside or inside the state apparatus, to do their utmost to impose the only solution which will make it possible:

To guarantee all citizens' rights and freedoms, with no restrictions;

To establish democratic institutions at all levels;

To preserve national independence and the country's territorial integrity;

To reorient the economy in the direction of the people's masses' interests and the resolution of their everyday problems.

This solution exists. It will make it possible to restore power to the people through a democratic process.

More specifically, our party put forward in October 1978 a five-point plan for imposing a democratic leftwing solution on the basis of a "national pact for civil, political and economic rights," guaranteeing the above-mentioned principles.

The PRSA calls on Algerians, especially those who, despite the deployment of police, responded to its 6 November call by going in large numbers to the cemeteries to honor the Chouadas [allusion unknown], to redouble their vigilance and keep prepared to intervene to impose a solution in keeping with their aspirations.

It is necessary immediately to prepare for large-scale actions, which could go as far as a general strike or street demonstrations.

Let committees be set up everywhere to support the five-point plan and the national pact, with a view to imposing a democratic leftwing outcome.

It is necessary to fight to insure that the political habits and the practices of a regime hated by everybody disappear forever.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI CONVENES GENERAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS 16 DEC

LD051324Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Brother Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the General People's Congress, has issued a decision inviting the General People's Congress to convene. This is the text of the decision:

The secretary general of the General People's Congress has decided:

Article 1--The General People's Congress is hereby invited to convene on Saturday, 16 December 1978 at 1000 in at the People's Hall in Tripoli.

Article 2--This decision shall be published in the official gazette and shall be implemented as from its date of issuance.

Signed: Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the General People's Congress, 5 December 1978.

AL-QADHDHAFI SENDS MESSAGE TO JORDAN'S HUSAYN

LD051548Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Recently brother Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi sent a message to King Husayn of Jordan dealing with the recent developments between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and the support enjoyed by the Palestinian resistance from Jordan, which was manifested at the meetings and in the dialog held recently between Jordanian officials and a delegation from the Palestinian resistance.

JANA has learned that brother 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Jordanian Court, is expected in Tripoli tomorrow carrying a personal message to brother Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi from King Husayn of Jordan.

MOROCCO

SENEGALESE PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT

LD021736Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The president of Senegal, Leopold Senghor, accompanied by a parliamentary delegation, today arrived in Morocco after visiting France. He was welcomed at Sale airport by Ahmed Osman, prime minister; M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation; Dr Mohamed Benhima, minister of state for the interior; Abdelhadi Boutaleb, minister of state for information; Ahmed Bensoude, the king's adviser; and other senior officials.

SOVIET MINISTER OF FISH INDUSTRY ARRIVES IN MOROCCO

LD031502Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Mr Ishkov, Soviet minister of fish industry arrived here this morning. In a declaration he issued on his arrival, Mr Ishkov expressed his pleasure at being in Morocco once more within the framework of the strengthening Soviet-Moroccan cooperation in the field of ocean fishing. He said that both countries have good possibilities likely to be of use in helping to consolidate this cooperation. He said that the Soviet Union has a good deal of experience in this area, while Morocco has an important fish exporting industry. If we add to these two elements the firm determination of the two countries to cooperate, he said, it becomes possible to foresee a good future for this cooperation.

MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ENDS VISIT TO MOROCCO

LD021550Y Rabat MAP in English 1209 GMT 2 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Rabat, Dec 2, MAP--Mauritanian Foreign Minister Cheikh Ould Mohamed Laghdaf left here Friday after a twenty-four hour state visit to Morocco.

Laghdaf delivered a message from Mauritanian President Moustapha Ould Saleck to Morocco's King Hassan II and discussed with Foreign Minister M'hamed Boucetta bilateral relations and international affairs of mutual interest. Laghdaf left for Kuwait to participate in the permanent committee for Arab-African cooperation's meeting.

SUDAN

MALIAN PRESIDENT CONCLUDES VISIT TO SUDAN

JN021110Y Khartoum SUNA in English 1100 GMT 2 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 2 (SUNA)--President Moussa Traore of Mali left here this morning after attending meetings of the Western Sahara Wisemen Committee.

The committee, which held meetings during Nov. 30-Dec 1, tackled W. Sahara question and assigned Presidents Obasanjo of Nigeria and Traore of Mali to visit the conflicted zone and prepare a report after meeting the parties concerned.

PAPER DISCUSSES NUMAYRI'S AFRICAN TOUR

JN041040Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1024 GMT 4 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Dec--The Sudanese newspaper AS-SAHAFAH published here this morning analyses President Ja'far Numayri's tour of Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Kenya in his capacity as chairman of the OAU. The paper describes the visit as one that comes at a time the area is witnessing important events affecting the interests of the African Continent, its peoples and future.

The paper says: The objective of President Ja'far Numayri's mission is to continue his endeavors to resolve all the problems existing between Uganda and Tanzania, to contain the dispute between the two African countries, and to stop the deterioration of the situation out of commitment to the OAU Charter. Furthermore, President Numayri has responded to the appeal made by Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda to visit Zambia and to meet with the leaders of the liberation movements in Rhodesia and to get acquainted with the developments of the situation in the area.

The paper explains that one of the goals of his tour of these states is to meet with Kenyan President Arap Moi, who succeeded the late President Jomo Kenyatta, and to discuss in particular Sudanese-Kenyan relations, and in general the developments in the African Continent.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says that President Numayri's tour is of special significance in the current circumstances because of Sudan's stand and its independent policy in defense of unity and solidarity among the African peoples and their national sovereignty.

TUNISIA

PRIME MINISTER'S 30 NOV MEETING IN U.S. REPORTED

LD011808Y Tunis TAP in English 1615 GMT 1 Dec 78 LD

["Nouira's Statement in Washington: No War Without Egypt and No Peace Without the Palestinians"--TAP headline]

[Text] Washington, Dec 1 (TAP)--Premier Hedi Nouira received Thursday at 11 a.m. (5 p.m. Tunisian hours), in his Blair House residence, George Meany, chairman of the U.S. unions "AFL/CIO".

At the end of this 40 minute interview, Hedi Nouira told TAP special reporters that he had with Meany a very large discussion. The latter, Nouira said, inquired first into President Bourguiba's health. He reminded of his friendly ties with the president from the period of the struggle for independence. He stressed the fact that the U.S. [word indistinct] and appreciates Tunisia's stand. Finally Meany asserted that the U.S. unions were ready to contribute to Tunisia's efforts of development. Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri, Agriculture Minister Hassen Belkhodja and Tunisian Ambassador in Washington Ali Hedda attended the interview.

Thursday morning Hedi Nouira had invited press representatives to a breakfast debate. He said more particularly that President Carter accepted to go on an official visit to Tunisia and the date of the journey would be fixed later, taking into account the U.S. head of state's diary.

As far as the Middle East affair is concerned, the prime minister said the PLO is the only good interlocutor and added: "You cannot have war without Egypt and you cannot have just and lasting peace without the Palestinians."

Later, Hedi Nouria received Robert Strauss, U.S. special representative for trading negotiations.

The prime minister also received later in the morning the Arab and African ambassadors accredited in Washington as well as John Moore, chairman of Washington Import-Export Bank.

Telling his first impressions to Tunisian journalists, Hedi Nouria said he was very satisfied with the outcomes of his talks with President Carter and U.S. officials. He added that he will have the opportunity to report it with all the details to President Bourguiba when he stops over in Bonn on his way back to Tunis.

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR MINISTRY BLAMES MOROCCAN FORCES FOR SINKING SPANISH BOAT

LD301342Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Nov 78 LD

[Text] The [SDAR] Information Ministry reveals in a statement which it released the day before yesterday [as heard] in connection with the sinking of the Spanish fishing vessel in Saharan territorial waters, that the ship came under fire from Moroccan expansionist forces which were engaged in live-ammunition maneuvers along the Saharan coast.

The SDAR Information Ministry refutes accusations spread by the Rabat regime in an attempt to hold the POLISARIO responsible for [word indistinct]. The statement recalls in this connection the communique published by the naval command of the Canary Islands last week warning fishermen to keep away from Saharan coast by at least 20 kms, in order to enable the Moroccan forces to carry out the live-ammunition military maneuvers.

The statement also observes that the explosions of the Ceuta and (?Melilla) operation and the sinking of the Spanish fishing vessel are merely part of a scenario prepared by the king of Rabat with the aim of exploiting the internal situation in Spain, since the aim of sending Moroccan delegations to Madrid in recent days on the pretext of having contacts and talks with the Spanish side is the result of this [word indistinct] policy of Hasan II, who now finds himself isolated internationally and militarily and is involved in an acute internal crisis at both political and economic levels, as the country is threatened with complete bankruptcy. In order to extricate itself from this grave situation, Hasan II's regime is resorting to its favorite method--pressure and bargaining. Thus this regime planned the sinking of the Spanish boat in Saharan territorial waters in an effort to keep Spain on its side in its aggressive war, which has been condemned by the international community, and to wrest from Spain more political concessions. [as heard]

Concluding its statement, the SDAR Information Ministry appeals to the world community and all countries of the world to face up to their responsibilities and to help the Saharan people expel the forces of invasion and occupation from their homeland.

BEGIN TO MEET WITH VANCE ON RETURN FROM OSLO

TA060616Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Dec 78 TA

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Begin will go ahead with his trip to Oslo in spite of the fact that Vance is coming. This was coordinated with the State Department before Vance's trip was announced. Begin will meet with Vance when he returns from Oslo on Monday.

An Israeli Cabinet minister says Vance will offer a package deal: Israel drops its opposition to a timetable for autonomy and Egypt accepts article 6 in the treaty.

MA'ARIV on Vance's Visit

TA061037Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 Dec 78 TA

[From review of the midday press editorials]

[Excerpt] MA'ARIV says Cyrus Vance's Middle East trip will be the last attempt to bring the Israeli-Egyptian talks to a positive conclusion before 17 December, the date set at Camp David. The newspaper calls on the cabinet to take utmost caution lest the key articles in the proposed peace treaty are deflated of their content even before the ink on the signatures dries.

JERUSALEM DENIES AGREEMENT TO ANY CHANGE IN ARTICLE 6

TA060849Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Dec 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Yosef Harif]

[Excerpt] Israel is adhering to its position that the draft treaty as proposed by the United States should not be changed in an attempt to circumvent article 6, the omission of which is demanded by Egypt. Authoritative sources in Jerusalem denied this morning the report from Egyptian sources that it is apparently possible to discern from Prime Minister Begin's message to As-Sadat that Israel will agree to dropping this article and will settle for an accompanying letter that will clarify the positions of the two parties regarding the issue covered in article 6.

A senior source who participated in the negotiations with Egypt said this morning that either of the following is true: If the accompanying letter constitutes a change in the content of this article, then Israel has already made it clear it is firmly opposed to any change; or, if Israel does not intend to change it, what is the letter for?

The Americans thus far have not proposed this idea officially. However, the leader of the Senate Democratic majority, Senator Robert Byrd, who held talks in Jerusalem at the end of the week, raised this idea in order to examine the possibility of overcoming the problems surrounding this article without harming the validity of the treaty. He also mentioned the possibility of attaching a letter to the peace treaty--which would be an integral part of the treaty--if the article is omitted from the body of the agreement (as demanded by Egypt).

Sources in the prime minister's office said this morning that there is no basis to the report by Egyptian sources that the prime minister agreed in his message to President as-Sadat to withdraw the Israeli demand that the article not be changed or to let it be replaced by a letter whose content would be discussed by the two parties.

A senior source in Jerusalem defined the state of the negotiations as a deadlock, the way out of which is still unknown.

The same source said that we have no choice but to wait for the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and hear what he has to say since Vance was the man who pressured Israel to accept the draft peace treaty as it is, emphasizing that thus it would be possible to forestall Egyptian demands to reopen the treaty for discussions.

WEIZMAN CONTACTS EGYPT'S KHALIL; NO BREAKTHROUGH

TA051151Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Dec 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Ya'Aqov Erez]

[Text] Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil, who ended his visit to Washington yesterday, and Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman conducted five telephone conversations while the Egyptian statesman was in the United States. The last conversation between the two took place on Saturday.

The defense minister reported all these conversations to Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

It was learned that there has been no change in Israel's and Egypt's positions in the wake of these telephone conversations.

The first conversation took place on the initiative of Mustafa Khalil, who phoned 'Ezer Weizman on his arrival in Washington. Afterward, there were more conversations, with the last taking place on Saturday after Khalil had concluded his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

Weizman and the Egyptian prime minister have been in personal contact since As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. In the second round of the military talks in Cairo, Mustafa Khalil and his wife were hosts to Weizman's wife, Ra'uma, and his son Sha'ul (who joined Weizman for a visit to Egypt). When Khalil was appointed Egyptian prime minister he made this known to 'Ezer Weizman who, at that time, was a member of Israel's delegation to the peace talks at Blair House.

SENIOR ISRAELI SOURCES: NEGOTIATIONS IN CRISIS

TA051152Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 5 Dec 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] The negotiations between Israel and Egypt might fail and it is a mistake to believe that the political process which began with As-Sadat's visit is irreversible. This pessimistic assessment was made yesterday by most senior government sources who have participated in the contacts with Egypt from the very beginning and are very knowledgeable about the details.

The sources maintain that the negotiations are in a serious state of crisis which might lead to a stalemate. In their opinion, Israel and Egypt must make new decisions. Otherwise, the political efforts which have been going on for over a year might run aground and, among other things, cause a serious political crisis within Israel.

It was learned yesterday that there have recently been high-level Israeli and Egyptian telephone contacts in an attempt to find a basis for resuming contacts between the two countries. However, these contacts have been fruitless. As far as is known, the cabinet has not received a report on these contacts.

Yesterday, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan met with U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis and they discussed the state of the negotiations. As far as is known, the U.S. ambassador informed the foreign minister of the Egyptian positions as presented by Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil to leaders of the U.S. administration.

The Egyptian views as presented in a message that As-Sadat sent to President Carter are in keeping with the positions expressed in his letter to Prime Minister Menahem Begin. In both messages As-Sadat stresses the importance of the Palestinian problem as a key element in solving the Middle East conflict and Egypt's inability to accept article 6 of the peace treaty as formulated in the latest draft drawn up by the U.S. administration and submitted to Israel and Egypt. As-Sadat also continues to demand a detailed timetable for implementation of the autonomy and specific dates for the interim stages of the first withdrawal from Sinai.

It is known from the meeting between Dayan and Lewis that at present the United States is not backing Egypt's demand to change the peace treaty formula and, at any rate, Washington will not initiate further deliberations on the articles of the treaty.

Yesterday, political observers pointed out that there might be a change in this U.S. position. As far as is known, Dayan made it clear to Lewis that Israel had made concessions on some of its demands with respect to the formulations of the peace treaty in order to respond to Washington's appeal that Jerusalem approve the draft treaty as is. Dayan maintains that Israel will not voluntarily reopen negotiations on the treaty. If the United States recommends this, it will have to bear the responsibility for the results of such a move, which would give both sides the chance to demand renewed deliberations on each and every article of the treaty.

It was intimated in Jerusalem yesterday that the dispute now focuses on Egypt's demand to delete--or change--article 6. As for the second problematical issue, the formulations of the accompanying letter dealing with implementation of the autonomy, Jerusalem sees a possibility of finding a solution to this difficulty provided that Egypt accepts the peace treaty as proposed by Washington and approved by the government.

The prime minister's reply to As-Sadat's letter was to have arrived in Egypt yesterday. In his letter, the prime minister attempts to keep the communication channels with As-Sadat open. At the same time, the prime minister reiterated Israel's refusal to fix a date for the establishment of the autonomy and its outright rejection of Egypt's demand to change any article of the treaty. Begin also answered each of the contentions contained in As-Sadat's letter, including accusations that Israel had changed its positions and had violated its commitments. Begin stressed in his message the concessions that Israel had already made during the negotiations.

Yesterday, Begin discussed the formulation of his answer with Ministers Ehrlich, Burg, Yadin, Dayan, Weizman and Shostak.

DAYAN REMARKS BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR SWITZERLAND

TA060859Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 6 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan has said that Israel does not want to rediscuss the formulation of the peace treaty. He emphasized that Israel has not agreed to change the articles agreed upon, including article 6 on the Egyptian commitments. Israel insists that neither a timetable nor a target date for the implementation of autonomy be set. He said he knew of no change in Israel's position and could not confirm Egypt's report that Israel was prepared to amend article 6 in an accompanying letter.

Dayan said he did not think that there was any significance in the 17 December date. If the negotiations are not ended within the 3 months agreed upon at Camp David, it will be possible to continue the negotiations.

The foreign minister was speaking at Ben Gurion Airport, from where he departed for a 3-day [as heard] visit to Switzerland.

Further on Dayan Remarks

TA060918Y Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0640 GMT 6 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Ben Gurion Airport, 6 Dec--Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and his wife left Wednesday morning on an El Al aircraft for Zurich en route to Bern for a 2-day official visit to Switzerland as the guest of Swiss Foreign Minister Pierre Graber.

At a press conference at the airport before his departure, Dayan replied to a question on whether or not there was a stalemate in the peace talks by saying that at the beginning of next week--either on Monday or Tuesday--U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will arrive in Israel after a visit to Cairo and he may bring with him a message from Cairo the content of which will probably enable the talks to continue.

Dayan added that when Vance arrives here he will meet with the prime minister and with the ministerial team which conducted the Washington negotiations. He said Israel's position is well known and he reiterated that the agreement signed at Camp David cannot be reopened or amended, especially not article 6. Also, with respect to the future of the autonomy, Israel is prepared to begin negotiations with Egypt after the peace treaty is signed and to realize the autonomy plan as agreed upon at Camp David--without a timetable and without a target date. This is our position, the foreign minister said, and I do not know of any change in this position. I welcome Mr Vance and we shall hear what he has to say.

As for Egypt's claim that Israel was prepared to amend article 6 through additional interpretation, the foreign minister said he did not know anything about this. Asked what would happen if Vance's mission failed, Dayan replied that Prime Minister Menahem Begin has said that we do not regard the negotiations as having been ended.

"Why speculate? He will be here and we will talk to him. Let us pass this stage and see what happens next," Dayan said.

Answering other questions, Dayan emphasized that he did not think 17 December was a special date. At the same time, he pointed out that it would be advisable to sign the peace treaty by that date, but if the negotiations have not ended by then and there is room for the continuation of the talks, we will do so.

Asked whether at the end of the 3-month period following the signing of the Camp David accords other settlements will be established in Judaea and Samaria, Dayan answered that he did not want to deal with settlement affairs. The prime minister gave his word about the settlements for the 3-month period, but according to Dayan such questions should be directed to the agriculture minister or to the prime minister and not to the foreign minister.

Answering yet another question about whether he thought the talks between the parties were in a state of collapse, Dayan said that we are glad that Vance is arriving and perhaps he will bring with him ideas on how to continue the negotiations and reach an agreement.

He added that his current visit to Switzerland had been decided upon a long time ago and that this was in return for a visit by the Swiss foreign minister to Israel on the eve of the Yom Kippur War. He said he does not see any connection between this trip and any kind of contribution to the peace treaty.

Yosef Hadass, director of the European Department in the Foreign Ministry, and ministry spokesman Naftali Lavi left with Dayan.

MK RABIN CALLS AUTONOMY PLAN 'A CATASTROPHE'

TA051832Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Dec 78 TA

[Text] MK Yizhaq Rabin has said that the autonomy plan is a catastrophe and will lead directly to the establishment of a Palestinian state. He spoke to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. Rabin said he will propose that the Alinemet vote against the plan. In contrast, Knesset members Bar-Lev and Amnon Rubinstein said that a Palestinian state will not be set up and, in the end, there will be a territorial compromise in Judaea and Samaria.

The committee today began discussion of the framework agreement pertaining to the Gaza Strip and Judaea and Samaria. It heard a legal analysis from Prof Binyamin Akzin [of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem]. He said the agreement was vaguely phrased and many clauses can be given contradictory interpretations. Next week the committee will hear a survey by Prof Menahem Millson who was the adviser to the military commander of Judaea and Samaria.

SHIM'ON PERES ASSESSES U.S. ATTITUDE ON PEACE TALKS

TA051247Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 5 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres is in Washington. He met last night with Secretary Vance, Vice President Mondale and national security chief Brezezinski. Afterward, reporter Connie Lon asked him to assess the U.S. attitude. [begin recording]

[Peres] My impression is that the Americans feel that time is running out.

[Lon] Why?

[Answer] Because the opposing forces, in the Arab world and maybe in Israel itself, are gaining strength and there is a sort of disheartening when one sees how time goes on without producing the hoped-for results. By 17 December, according to the Camp David agreements, a signed peace treaty should have been concluded. Now, it does not seem that by 19 December [as heard] we shall have it. And then the two major difficulties appeared today as insoluble, but I believe that all of us are at a point of no return and, in spite of all the difficulties, I am still hopeful that a solution will be found to overcome the increasing problems. [end recording]

LAW DEAN SCORES DRAFT PEACE TREATY WITH EGYPT

TA051546Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Dec 78 p 17 TA

[Interview with dean of the law faculty of Tel Aviv University, Prof Yoram Dinstein, by Gil Qesari--time and place not given]

[Text] Question: What made you so indignant, and why now, especially?

Answer: When I read the final version of the Camp David framework agreements I could scarcely believe my eyes. But I told myself that all kinds of agreements had been concluded "under the table" and these had not yet been made public, so I felt dubious about reacting, as a jurist, to a document which would later turn out to have been only a part of the whole picture. For it was hard to believe that this was all we had managed to achieve at Camp David, after a year in which we had maintained a stand that eroded our country's image in the eyes of the world. And now, all of a sudden, we make a 180-degree turn and accept the Camp David agreements. If we had accepted what we were offered at Ismailia we would have been far better off than with what we accepted at Camp David in every way. For instance, one of the general principles of the Ismailia draft which aroused hostile reaction on Israel's part was the principle of recognizing the "legitimate rights of the Palestinian people." The Camp David agreement not only reiterates this formula--which Israel has always considered a euphemism meaning its own annihilation--but also states that there will be full autonomy in the West Bank, with a strong local police force, and an Israeli withdrawal. Is that what we "gained" as the result of all those long months of crisis?

Question: What did you expect, for example, what kind of "under the table" arrangements?

Answer: Take the peace agreement. It was my assumption that it would at least set forth clear and precise arrangements for the normalization of relations. That is an extremely important issue, for in the final event, peace will not stand or fall by a piece of paper, even if it does go under the name of peace treaty. Peace will stand or fall based on the feeling of the two nations that they can live together and that conflicts and arguments are not resolved by war. Therefore, the thing to do in the peace treaty is to pave the way for a change in the atmosphere and to state, in as detailed a way as possible, and as clearly as possible--leaving no room for doubt, disputes or different interpretations--what the meaning of normalization is. An agreement is a meeting of the minds. If the agreement actually sweeps the problems under the rug, you are guaranteed a conflict as soon as it is signed.

That, incidentally, was discovered immediately after the Camp David agreement was signed, and with regard to a key issue: differences of opinion on the question of how long settlement in the West Bank was to be suspended....

The same applies to the draft peace treaty. Take, say, the question of trade between Israel and Egypt (annex III to the agreement) which is without doubt an important subject: It states there that negotiations regarding trade affairs will start 6 months after the interim withdrawal. What does that mean? Will the whole thing only start then? If so, what have we received in the meantime? The same holds true for cultural relations.

Altogether, what we have here is an internal contradiction. We keep hearing from the foreign minister that time is not on Israel's side, that time is working against us. If we assume that he is right, the question remains: Why will we be able to obtain better achievements after the interim withdrawal than we could today? Today, after all, the territories are in our hands; that is to say, we have bargaining cards. And we must receive a full return today for each card we throw into the game. Later on you cannot keep on using the same card over and over again. We are being divested and deprived of our assets. We are throwing all our cards [into the game] and for the time being we are receiving very little.

The agreement, as I see it, is an invitation to further conflict in the future. Questions cannot be left open in a peace treaty, such as the paragraph that states that Israel will be entitled to the transit of cargoes through the Suez Canal--without saying what kind of cargoes. The time for solving all these problems is now, today, before we have handed over the territories. For instance, if we were to decide on a 20-year lease of Sharm ash-Shaysh, this would insure that Egypt will have an incentive, at least for 20 years, to maintain the agreement. That is the only real guarantee that can be included in a peace treaty--the guarantee of leaving units in the field. That is how it was in the Versailles Treaty: they insured themselves 15 years of peace due to all sorts of clauses and paragraphs stipulating that allied forces were to leave units stationed in Germany, and so on. And in effect, when the effect of these clauses expired the world slid into World War II.

Question: What you are in fact saying is that the current version of the peace treaty lacks guarantees vis-a-vis Israel regarding Egypt's implementation and also regarding its good intentions?

Answer: Exactly. I refer to real guarantees, not guarantees by other countries but guarantees built into the agreement proper, guarantees that will provide the sides with interest in preserving the agreement; whereas in the present peace agreement Egypt has an interest in honoring it until the Israeli withdrawal is concluded--no longer.

Question: Meaning that we gave up too much where Egypt is concerned, and the agreement is too much in Egypt's favor and not enough in our own?

Answer: Right. And the negotiations were conducted in an inept manner. I think the whole system of conducting the negotiations and the whole decisionmaking process of the government in this respect, something that concerns the future of us all, of our children and of the generations to come, all these in themselves justify maximum criticism. It is virtually inconceivable that such an important issue should involve so few people with such scant expert knowledge. And this has been the situation all along in these feeble negotiations: Israel has kept on gaining verbal rights, while Egypt has been making concrete achievements in the field.

When As-Sadat made his speech in the Knesset we all laughed, but we ought to take his words more seriously, because he means to carry them out and he is already well away on an advanced stage of this process. As-Sadat insists on what he feels are his rights, while we are slowly, very slowly, "salami"-style, approaching the point he is aiming for.

There is no reason why the Americans and Egyptians should not be pleased with Israel's "achievement" in the negotiations, for this has led to an agreement which, in my opinion, leans far towards Egypt in the balance.

Question: And what about the problem of autonomy?

Answer: That is the main thing. The Camp David agreements stated autonomy--an autonomy which bears no resemblance to the autonomy of which the prime minister spoke at the beginning of the year. There has been an inflation here. The autonomy agreed on at Camp David is full autonomy, with an Israeli withdrawal and with a strong local police force. The Israeli public has not realized that this means full autonomy, especially when Begin constantly promises that this is not the autonomy that will be applied. Then what happens? One of two things: either he is right--in which case a conflict breaks out with Egypt very shortly after the agreement is signed; or he has in fact made concessions above and beyond what he has told us. That is the focal problem. In my opinion this government is throwing sand in the nation's eyes, to put it mildly.

Question: You are an Alignment sympathizer--yet you sound almost like Ge'ula Kohen.

Answer: The difference between us is that I am prepared to make concessions for the sake of peace, but only for true peace, not a peace agreement which in my view does not give peace a chance.

Question: In that case, do you think that the Camp David agreements give the Arabs too much from the autonomy aspect?

Answer: Certainly too much, especially since negotiations with the actual party concerned--and that is not Egypt--have not even started yet. Please bear in mind that the West Bank does not belong to Egypt. I have never heard of such a thing. Why did we make an agreement on the autonomy with Egypt?

Question: Meaning, the Camp David agreements should not have referred to Judaea and Samaria at all?

Answer: Quite right. They should not.

Question: Don't you think that the people in charge of the negotiations were aware of all these points, especially the legal experts there, both American and Israeli?

Answer: I think that what the Americans are doing is very subtle. Take the question of article 6, clause 5. The Americans know what I know, namely that this clause is meaningless. But they are letting an argument develop over this and eventually Egypt will have the kindness to comply with the American demands and give in, as it were, in this matter. And in return, they will demand that we give in on the question of a timetable.

Question: And the Israelis? Professor Baraq, after all, is an excellent attorney and Dr Me'ir Rosenne, the legal adviser to the Foreign Ministry, is an expert on international law?

Answer: I do not wish to embark upon public criticism of civil servants, since I do not believe that would be fair.

Question: But indirectly that is what you have been doing.

Answer: I level my criticism against the government and against those responsible from the parliamentary and public aspect.

Question: Practically speaking, would you suggest starting the whole negotiating process from the beginning?

Answer: Only with regard to the peace agreement (the Blair House talks), not the Camp David agreements. That is already a fait accompli--the agreements have been signed and are binding on Israel for better or worse. We can still be sorry, but except for pangs of conscience there is not much to be done; nothing, in fact. On the other hand, the draft peace treaty still has not been signed or approved. Egypt is explicitly inviting us to reopen negotiations regarding the draft peace treaty. What could be more natural, more logical, than to comply with this offer? So let us say--by all means, let us start again, and we have various requests, just as you do. In my view, the negotiations should be started anew, and agreement should be demanded between Israel and Egypt with regard to all the elements and components of the treaty. Real agreement, real consent on the question of autonomy, on which one decisive question has been ignored: What about the Jewish settlements located in the West Bank? Actually, I believe in an autonomy within an autonomy--Jewish settlements within the framework of the overall autonomy in the West Bank. And that ought to be concluded in the treaty; otherwise a conflict will break out over it in the future.

Question: What, in your view, can still be done? Or is it too late?

Answer: There is only one way now to halt the process, and that is: influence the public and the Knesset into preventing the draft treaty, as it stands, from being accepted.

MK SARID: USSR RESIGNED TO CAMP DAVID ACCORDS

TA031437Y Jerusalem POST in English 3 Dec 78 p 2 TA

[By Sarah Honig, POST political reporter]

[Text] Tel Aviv--Despite open Soviet hostility to the Israeli-Egyptian peace moves, it is now clear to the Russians that they must accept some sort of a peace pact as a fait accompli. This was the impression which most of the members of an Israeli delegation to the Soviet Union brought back with them upon their return on Friday afternoon.

The delegation, which spent 10 days in Russia at the invitation of the Soviets, included leading Knesset "doves" Yosi Sarid of the Alignment, Avraham Melamed of the National Religious Party and Naftali Feder of MAPAM. Also making the trip were Shelli's Amnon Zikhroni, and Rakah's MK Rawfiq Tubi and its spokesman, 'Uzzi Burstein.

The delegation strongly denounced the sharp criticism leveled at them for meeting "official Jews" in the USSR and for their attitude towards aliya activists.

Sarid told the Jerusalem POST that the Zionists in the group (all but the Rakah delegates) took pains to defend the peace talks with Egypt.

The Soviets, while attacking the peace process, intimated that they are "no longer talking in terms of undoing what has already been accomplished. "In their attempts to re-enter the Middle East arena, they will have to take into account the new relations between Israel and the Egyptians. Rejection of Camp David is no longer seen as a precondition to the resumption of the Geneva talks," Sarid maintained.

Sarid stressed that the group did not bring back with it "any great or glad tidings. We did not expect nor did we bring the great breakthrough in Soviet-Israeli relations. But everywhere we went there were indications that the ice is beginning to thaw a bit."

Tubi, however, came away with the impression that "nothing has changed, and nothing will as long as Israel does not mend its ways. The basic Soviet position remains. Relations with Israel were broken because of the war of conquest waged by Israel, and there will be no thaw as long as Israeli obstacles to peace are not removed."

Sarid also reported that the group had received a solemn Soviet undertaking not to bar Israeli participation in the 1980 Moscow Olympics and to allow the entry of Israeli news teams and tourists for the event.

Sarid came out strongly against accusations that the delegation had served the aims of Soviet propaganda. "We were not used or exploited by the Soviets," he declared. "Sure, our view of Soviet life was brief and superficial and we were shown only what our hosts wanted us to see. But while I am a socialist by conviction, I now say that my socialism and theirs are as distant as East and West. I found severe neglect of the individual in Soviet society and I do not attempt to conceal my criticism."

Sarid said that "the Soviets tried to tell us that 98 percent of those who wish to leave are allowed out and that only those exposed to state secrets are denied visas. We countered with our own figures and presented the OVIR (immigration) office in Moscow with the names of 59 'refusedniks.' All of them have been waiting for visas from 5 to 10 years and could not possibly harbour any state secrets. "In the list was activist Ida Nudel, who was sentenced to 5 years of exile and whose health is said to be deteriorating. We also asked for a reprieve for the 10 Leningrad trial defendants."

SARID CHALLENGED COMPLAINTS BY ACTIVISTS IN MOSCOW OF "A DEGRADING ATTITUDE" TOWARDS THEM BY THE ISRAELI MK'S. THE ACTIVISTS HAVE REPORTED THAT THE ISRAELIS POSTPONED A MEETING TO LATE AT NIGHT TO ATTEND A CIRCUS AND WHEN THEY ARRIVED FOR THE MEETING THEY WERE TIRED AND DISINTERESTED.

Sarid confirmed that there had been a circus, "but we had to go as it was the first thing which our hosts had scheduled for us. We could not insult our hosts. When we came to the meeting we sat with the 'refusedniks' till 2:30 and I, for one, was certainly not sleepy."

Sarid also categorically rejected criticism of Feder's meetings with two of the Soviet Union's leading anti-Zionist "official Jews"--Gen Abraham Dragunski and publicist Aaron Vergelis, both of whom are known for the vituperation with which they had attacked Israel.

Ya'acov Ardon adds: Avraham Melamed noted with respect that for him, as an observant Jew, the Soviet authorities had arranged a special programme including kosher food, meetings with rabbis, observant Jewish families, and visits to synagogues, Jewish cemeteries and memorial sites of the victims of the German invasion. "The main problem for the survival of the Jewish spirit and tradition among the Jews in the Soviet Union is acquainting them with knowledge of what Judaism is," he said. "They know so little about it and that is one of the reasons for the high drop-out rate in Vienna. They simply have never had any information about their Jewish heritage."

In a talk with the commissar for religious affairs, Melamed was told that the Jews of Moscow could get as much kosher poultry as they wanted and that one steer was slaughtered by a ritual slaughterer every week. "If the demand were higher, we would approve it. The same goes for synagogues, he told me," Melamed said.

Sarid on Relations With USSR

TA051141Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 5 Dec 78 p 12 TA

[By HA'AREZ parliamentary correspondent]

[Text] The visit of a delegation of Knesset members to the Soviet Union signifies some movement in Israeli-Soviet relations. The glacier has started to move, MK Yosi Sarid said yesterday at a meeting of the Alinemet faction where MK Naftali Feder also spoke of his impressions of the visit to the Soviet Union.

Sarid raised six points in reviewing the visit: In his opinion, Israeli-Soviet contacts will continue with greater understanding than in the past. It was agreed with the Soviet hosts that ideological differences should not cast a shadow on the efforts to achieve peace. The Russians stressed their commitment to the 1967 borders. The Russians also expressed their commitment to Israel's security and Moscow's willingness to provide guarantees together with the United States in exchange for Israel's withdrawal to the 1967 borders. They also expressed a desire to work toward a limitation of the arms race in the Middle East.

He also said that the Soviets view the Camp David agreements as a regression in the peace process and it was not As-Sadat's initiative but that of the United States to establish an anti-Soviet belt in the region. The Soviets stressed that the Soviet Union cast a moderating influence over the Baghdad conference, making it easier for President as-Sadat to take its resolutions into consideration.

'PEACE NOW' CALLS ON AS-SADAT, BEGIN TO CHANGE STANDS

TA052025Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 5 Dec 78 TA

[Text] The Peace Now Movement has called on President as-Sadat to give up his position on article 6 in the draft peace treaty. At the same time, the movement called on Prime Minister Menahem Begin to recognize that a separate peace with Egypt is impossible and to stop the settlement activity in the West Bank.

At a meeting of activists--the first in 3 months--the movement spokesman said that the meeting is a reaction to the calls by those circles called the loyalists to Eretz Yisra'el not to sign the peace treaty with Egypt.

'Peace Now' Renews Activities

TA060715Y Jerusalem POST in English 6 Dec 78 p 2 TA

[By Jerusalem POST reporter]

[Text] The Peace Now Movement, renewing its activities after a hiatus of several months, last night called on Prime Minister Menahem Begin and President Anwar as-Sadat to continue their efforts to arrive at a peace agreement. A spokesman said the movement's appeal to the two leaders was being made at a particularly crucial point in the negotiations.

"Peace Now is against withdrawal--not from the territories but from the road to peace," was one of the slogans voiced at a gathering of 700 of the movement's members at Jerusalem's Ram Hotel. Peace Now called on Begin to travel to Oslo and receive the Nobel Peace Prize but to remember that he would have to justify the award by concluding the peace agreement afterwards, if it was not signed by the date of the ceremony.

The spokesman said that the movement would continue to press for the establishment of Arab, non-Israeli autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza, with suitable security arrangements for Israel, and viewed such arrangements as being part and parcel of any peace pact with Egypt, as stipulated in the Camp David agreements.

The spokesman said that the movement had heard rumours that following December 17, when the three-month hiatus on settlement across the green line expired, Gush Emunim would renew its settlement activity to test Begin. If this happens, Peace Now will take to the streets again to generate public opposition to such activities, the spokesman said.

HA'AREZ REPORTS NEW SETTLEMENTS TO BE SET UP IN 2 WEEKS

TA060813Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 6 Dec 78 p 1 TA

[By Yehuda Litani]

[Text] A senior source told the HA'AREZ correspondent yesterday that at the end of the 3-month freeze on settlement activity, in about 2 weeks, two new settlements are to be established in the Jordan Valley, one south of Mount Hebron and the other in 'Emeq Ayyalon within the boundaries of the West Bank. This will be the first stage.

In the second stage, at the beginning of 1979, three additional new settlements in the Jordan Valley are to be established. The source also reported that additional hundreds of new housing units in the Gush Emunim settlements in Samaria and the Jerusalem area, such as Hares, Giv'on, Allon More and Qarney Shomron, are planned.

According to this source, the settlement south of Hebron will be set up near Lasifar, southeast of Eshtemoa.

The beginning of a permanent settlement for the An Nabi Salih (Neve Zuf) settlers north-west of Ramallah is also planned for the coming period. The permanent settlement will be erected on government land near the "Tegart" building of the border guard (where the settlers are now residing). According to a Supreme Court order, the erection of the permanent settlement on the piece of land next to the "tegart" building is prohibited. Inhabitants of villages in the vicinity claim they own this piece of land.

The Gush Emunim members notified the military authorities that about 1,000 families want to join the Gush Emunim settlements in Samaria. It has been learned that the Zionist Federation settlement section last week began practical preparations for the establishment of the new settlements in the Jordan Valley. It has also been learned that according to plans it is intended that the government will approve these steps at a date which is very close to the actual beginning of the work.

BEGIN URGES NE'OT SINAI SETTLERS TO HELP IN RELOCATION

TA051637Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 5 Dec 78 TA

[Text] The prime minister has called on the Ne'ot Sinai settlers to help to establish the new settlement to be set up for them in the Besor district. In a meeting with the representatives of the settlers in his Knesset office, Menahem Begin said he will instruct the settlement elements to provide the settlement with new sources of livelihood since following its evacuation it will remain without the laundry operation which is its major source of livelihood. He said he had rejected outright a proposal raised in the Washington discussions to include Ne'ot Sinai in the first IDF withdrawal.

The settlers told the prime minister they will not cooperate with the settlement institutions in planning the new settlement. They also complained that the Defense Ministry legal adviser had instructed the [Finance Ministry] investments authority to cancel the credit for the settlement because the IDF will soon no longer require the services of the settlement's laundry.

AUTONOMY COMMITTEE MEMBERS SAY REPORT 'INCORRECT'

TA060700Y Jerusalem POST in English 6 Dec 78 p 1 TA

[By Jerusalem POST reporter]

[Text] Senior members of the interministerial committee charged with setting up plans for autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza yesterday dissociated themselves from a report that the committee had recommended that the military government maintain control in the territories indefinitely.

The statement, broadcast over radio over the weekend, was attributed to a "senior official." It said that the projected self-governing authority in the territories would continue to derive its powers from the military government, which would remain in control of the West Bank and Gaza. The source of the statement could not be traced.

Committee members who dissociated themselves from the statement reportedly included its chairman, Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, head of the prime minister's office who has been stressing that the committee has not completed its work. Another committee member who dissociated himself was the director-general of the Foreign Ministry, Yosef Ciechanover.

Both Ben-Elisar and Ciechanover were said to have told aides that the weekend report was "incorrect."

Aides, however, did not deny that the committee was preparing recommendations for restricting the legislative powers of the self-governing authority, for the preservation of Israel's right to augment settlements and own property in the territories, and for overseeing security from positions where Israeli forces would be redeployed.

DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN TOURS SHARM ASH-SHAYKH AREA

TA051939Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman toured the Sharm ash-Shaykh area today. He was accompanied by the chief of staff and heard briefings by senior officers about the IDF deployment in the area and the plans for redeployment if the IDF withdraws to the Al 'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line.

W. BANKERS APPEAL TO COURT TO HALT DEMOLITION OF HOUSES

TA041247Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Dec 78 p 16 TA

[By Yosef Zuri'el]

[Text] A temporary order issued last night by high court of justice Judge Mirian Ben-Porat prevents security elements in Judaea and Samaria from carrying out their decision to demolish five houses in the Ramallah district until the appeal submitted by the five families has been heard.

The appeal was submitted last night by lawyer Felicia Langer, in the name of the five families from Silwad and Al Birah. The appeal alleges that security elements are prepared to destroy the houses. The appellants requested a temporary order to prevent this as well as a conditional court order which would order the minister of defense and the commander of the Judaea and Samaria district to appear and explain why they should not be prevented from destroying the five houses. The temporary order was given and the request for the granting of a conditional order will be discussed at a forum of three judges.

Members of the five families have been detained for more than 2 months as being suspected of hostile activity, including belonging to a squad which has as its objective the elimination of "collaborators" with Israel.

According to the version of these families, army and border guard units came to the village of Silwad and the town of Al Birah in order to take measurements and examine of the area in preparation for carrying out the demolition order which had, according to them, been issued by the military government.

Yesterday, West Bank figures were recruited to prevent the destruction of the houses. The five families were told that they should shut themselves up in their houses and youths would form a living fence around them. A cable was sent to the President of the United States in the name of some of the mayors, protesting the "policy of destroying houses" applied, according to them, in the territories.

It was impossible to get a reaction last night from the headquarters of the IDF Judaea and Samaria command.

House Owner's Press Conference

TA052021Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Dec 78 TA

[Text] A man whose house was demolished yesterday by the security forces held a press conference in the village of Silwad in Ramallah district. He described the way his house was torn down and also claimed that the IDF soldiers beat up the members of his family and pulled out trees in the yard. The press conference was attended mainly by foreign correspondents as well as by Al-Birah Mayor Ibrahim at-Tawil.

Our correspondent remarks that the son of the owner of the demolished house admitted during the investigation of the matter that he had killed ('Abd an-nur Janhu) of Ramallah because he had been suspected of cooperating with Israel.

DPFLP LEAFLETS CIRCULATING IN WEST BANK

TA060615Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Democratic front terrorists headed by Nayif Hawatimah have been circulating leaflets on the West Bank. They charge that Jordan is preparing the ground for autonomy and also wants to annex the West Bank again, instead of working for an independent Palestinian state.

BEDOUNS SAY IDF FORCED THEM TO QUIT NEGEV SITE

TA060705Y Jerusalem POST in English 6 Dec 78 p 2 TA

[By Harry Wall, Jerusalem POST reporter]

[Text] Beersheba--More than 40 bedouin families were forced by the Israel Defence Forces to evacuate their site near Yeroham on Sunday night.

Members of the Azazma tribe were told by the soldiers that if they did not leave within two hours, their tents would be burned down, the bedouin claimed.

It was not clear why the IDF moved with such haste, or who had authorized the expulsion order. An IDF spokesman said that "all civilians had to be cleared because the area had been designated as a firing range." The spokesman would not elaborate.

"If manoeuvres were being held in the area, the army would warn us which places were off-limits," one of the tribesmen told the Jerusalem POST. In the past whenever the army held artillery practice, the bedouin were informed of the schedules and would usually take cover or leave when the firing began.

Members of the tribe said that the soldiers, who arrived in command cars, jeeps, and trucks, took away all their sheep to the quarantine station in Beersheba. Other bedouin in the vicinity, who were not removed from their sites, complained that their sheep also had been rounded up by the IDF and taken away, and that they were told that the sheep would be returned only after a stiff fine had been paid for allowing them to roam free.

Except for a few men who remained to haul off belongings, there was no sign of life at the campsite where about 300 people had been living, reportedly for over 20 years. Most of the evacuated bedouin were relocated to a spot near the Ramat Hovav industrial zone south of here.

An uneasy mood permeated the bedouin camps throughout the eastern Negev as action against them appears to have been rekindled following a six-month lull. "None of us feels secure anymore in our homes," complained a bedouin from a neighboring tribe.

Moshe Sharon, the prime minister's adviser on Arab affairs, said yesterday that he did not know the eviction was planned and that he first heard about it over the radio. Sharon said the lack of coordination on the issue proves his point that there is need of a minister to deal with Arab affairs.

ISRAELI PHYSICIANS RECEIVE WARM WELCOME IN EGYPT

TA051902Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Dec 78 TA

[Text] The Israeli physicians participating in a scientific congress in Cairo were given a hearty and warm welcome. The hosts made every possible effort to make their stay in the Egyptian capital pleasant. This was reported by Prof Yosef Shenkar from the Hadassah hospital upon his return to Israel. He said he was unaware that Jordan, Kuwait or Saudi Arabia had recalled their representatives to the congress because of the participation of the Israeli physicians. On the contrary, he said that the physicians from all Arab countries were happy to meet with them and exchange views on professional and political matters.

The organizers of the congress took care that the Israeli guests would also see Cairo, arranged many meetings for them with physicians and even with the health minister, and also toured the hospitals with them. Professor Shenkar's impression is that the standard of medicine in Egypt is high.

LEBANON: CLASHES BETWEEN TERRORISTS, FRENCH SOLDIERS

TA060631Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 6 Dec 78 TA

[Text] In southern Lebanon, there have once again been several serious clashes between the terrorists and French UN soldiers. Our correspondent reports that armed terrorists tried to take positions in villages under the UN force's control on the western front. The French soldiers detained some terrorists and the terrorists retaliated by kidnaping several soldiers from the French unit. The terrorists and the hostages were released following negotiations.

Our correspondent adds that the terrorists have been continuing to strengthen their control in the villages in southern Lebanon and have been bringing artillery pieces, light arms and ammunition into the area.

Preparations to Oust Terrorists

TA060632Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Dec 78 TA

[Excerpt] In Shi'ite Moslem villages, young men are organizing to kick the terrorists out. These Moslem units are under the command of Christian Maj Sa'd Haddad.

MAJLIS RECEIVES CENSURE MOTIONS AGAINST GOVERNMENT

LD031220Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpts] In today's session of the Majlis, three censure motions were presented by the minority Pan-Iranian Group and the deputies from Tabriz and Fasa. The motions concern recent events.

In the same meeting, deputies from Tehran submitted a reminder to the Majlis which asked the government to explain the events of the last 2 nights in Tehran--events that claimed many lives and produced great confusion and inform the Majlis deputies of the reasons why these events occurred.

During the Majlis session, held at 0900 under Speaker Dr Javad Sa'id, the Pan-Iranian Group and the independent opposition submitted a censure motion against the government in connection with the recent events in Tehran and the provinces. The Pan-Iranian Group, in its censure motion, said that the deaths of a number of people during the recent incidents were not only an overt violation of the laws and aims of the Iranian movement and revolution, but were unnecessary and contrary to national interests. Therefore, they said, those who perpetrated these killings must be identified and prosecuted.

Bani-Ahmad, the deputy from Tabriz, submitted a similar censure motion against the government. His motion also concerned the events of last 2 nights in Tehran. Fasa Deputy Mostafa Moshir also submitted a censure motion concerning the repression and severe censorship of the last few days.

Another group of deputies, referring to remarks made in the Senate by Jalali Na'ini and Mohammad 'Ali Masudi, who said that Dr Karim Sanjabi had announced his belief and confidence in the constitution and the prime minister himself, referred to this very point and enquired about the reasons for the arrests of Dr Sanjabi and Mr Foruhar. They further asked if the refusal to free them is not tantamount to a disregard for the constitution.

Government To Reply

LD051954Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Dec 78 LD

[Text] In reply to a question put to him by our correspondent as to when the government will reply to the censure motions introduced by deputies to the National Consultative Assembly, the minister of state for parliamentary affairs said: When the National Consultative Assembly holds an open session Thursday this week, the three censure motions proposed by the deputies will be read, and during the same session the government, while expressing its readiness to reply, will request the National Consultative Assembly's executive to specify as soon as possible the date for holding a session for submitting the censure motions and the government's reply.

In accordance with the internal constitution of the National Consultative Assembly, the text of the censure motion should be read during the first session following the introduction of the censure motion.

TEHRAN REPORTS PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION IN MASHHAD

LD051806Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Dec 78 LD

[Text] PARS NEWS AGENCY has reported from Mashhad that this morning a large number of people from various classes marched through the city's streets. These demonstrations ended quietly by noon.

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This afternoon, however, a group of people entered the city's sports stadium and carried out acts of vandalism, but with the intervention of law enforcement officers, the demonstrators dispersed.

SHI'ITES TO HOLD MARCH IN TEHRAN ON 10 DEC

TA052040Y Paris AFP in English 2009 GMT 5 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Dec 5 (AFP)--The Shi'ite Moslem opposition today announced it will defy a government ban and hold a march in Tehran next Sunday.

The march will be on the eve of Ashura, which marks the death of the Martyr Hoseyn and ends the current Shi'ite Moslem mourning period of Muharram.

The announcement was issued by Ayatollah Taleghani, one of the most influential Shi'ite leaders, who said he would head the march.

When Ayatollah Taleghani was freed from jail last September, his release triggered a large demonstration in his favor.

In light of the announcement, and Prime Minister Gholam Reza Azhari's statement that the army is "ready for every eventuality," observers anticipated that government and opposition were preparing for a showdown. Meanwhile it was learned that a renewed strike has again cut Iran's oil exports.

Activity in Tehran today was at a low ebb, with most shops closed.

Meanwhile, it was reported from Tehran later tonight that demonstrations which began with the curfew at 9:00 p.m. ended after about an hour.

The army [word indistinct] automatic weapons to deal with the demonstrators, reports said, but (?it was not) possible to estimate (?if any) casualties had resulted.

As in the previous five nights of demonstrations, people had taken to the rooftops and hidden behind (?doorways shouting) religious and antigovernment slogans.

As in previous days the electricity had also been cut in the whole city about [word indistinct] minutes after the unrest.

(Some reports said that in the northwest of the city the army had used powerful spot-lights to try to pick out the demonstrators.)

TEHRAN ASSAILS NEWS AGENCIES FOR 'FALSE, UNTRUE' REPORTS

ID031310Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Dec 78 ID

[Text] Dear listeners: Recent events in Tehran have become the focus of attention of world news agencies. Some international news agencies--which are known by the Iranian people--by filing false and untrue reports, have given certain figures--of death and injuries--for the incidents which occurred in Tehran during the last 2 nights that come as a surprise.

Some agencies which are more inclined towards facts that sensationalism have sent dispatches, quoting their correspondents, to the rest of the world. However, a report dispatched by REUTER, quoting "eye witnesses," cites a surprising death figure--a figure which was also used by colonialist radios. These radios, in line with their own intentions and wishes, and referring to the REUTER news agency, have broadcast an unacceptable and amazing death figure, and this with such sensationalism that it truly grieves any honorable Iranian.

However, as far as we are concerned, the false and fabricated reports dispatched and broadcast by these agencies and radios, which have nothing else in mind but to create unrest, trouble and chaos, are not surprising. We have not forgotten the threats issued by these radios, but these devious designs cannot have the slightest effect on the patriotic spirit of the Iranian nation. Any sound uttered by aliens is undoubtedly unpleasant to the Iranian nation. The people will not allow any voice to speak against the interests of the Iranian people.

In its news dispatch, AFP wrote: Following Friday evening's incidents and clashes, 7 people were killed and 24 injured. The same agency reported on Saturday that Tehran appeared to be calm. REUTER, however gives the same figures with a different complexion; there is no doubt that the events taking place in Tehran make some people happy and others unhappy. The happy ones are the mercenaries of the colonialists and those waiting to fish in troubled waters. But these incidents make all Iranians unhappy. The enemy, through a skillful plan, intends to bring about a schism among the Iranian people and thus destroy their unity and solidarity.

What wishes is the enemy entertaining? The enemy's wish, like that of certain news agencies, radios and colonialist loudspeakers, is to see our homeland destroyed.

The nation's enemy does not stop at invading the frontier. It also attacks people's minds and thoughts and, by creating a psychological war, would like to see an atmosphere of chaos and anarchy. It is the nation's enemy that calls on the people to install loudspeakers on rooftops and play tape recordings of the sounds of machineguns, of tanks and shooting. It is the enemy who calls for a psychological war, so that your sick countryman might die at home and your children might shudder. [as heard]

Strangely enough, when there was a blackout in certain areas in Tehran, the monotonous noises, frightening sounds and the sounds of machineguns and tanks, being emitted from tape recorders, subsided.

AYATOLLAH KHOMEYNI REPORTEDLY PERMITTED TO RETURN

ID051444Y Paris Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 5 Dec 78 ID

[Text] We have just learned of a report from Iran: Ayatollah Khomeyni is reported to be authorized to return to Iran. General Azhari, the prime minister of Iran, has just said that like any other Iranian, Ayatollah Khomeyni, who is the Moslem religious leader, may return to his country and would not be arrested.

Khomeyni Rejects Offer

LD061130Y Tripoli JANA in English 0833 GMT 6 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Paris, Dec 6, JANA--The Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeyni who lives in a Paris suburb turned down an offer to return to Iran. It was presented to him yesterday by the head of the Iranian military government.

In a reply to a question by JANA correspondent in Paris, Khomeyni said that his mission is to rescue the Iranian people from the despotism of the shah and his junta at a time when the Moslem Iranian people are waging battles against the shah and his oppressive forces.

NEW TEHRAN PUBLIC PROSECUTOR APPOINTED

LD061106Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 6 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The justice minister has appointed Seyyed Hoseyn Hashemi, the Tehran prosecutor, as assistant prosecutor of the Supreme Court. The justice minister has appointed Seyyed Mojtaba Modarresi as the Tehran public prosecutor, replacing Hashemi.

AZHARI: RESIDENT ALIENS 'ENJOY FULL PROTECTION'

LD052000Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Dec 78 LD

[Text] A press conference between foreign correspondents and Gen Gholam Reza Azhari, the prime minister, took place at the prime minister's palace this afternoon. During the meeting foreign press and radio and television correspondents asked questions on the demonstrations engaged in by the opposition in Tehran and other cities, the future situation in Iran and the country's economy. The questions were answered in detail by Gen Gholam Reza Azhari, the prime minister.

The prime minister said: We are experiencing an era of psychological warfare and there is a group of people who, by destroying our flourishing economy, burgeoning because of the guidance and efforts of the shahanshah, wish to inflict shortages on the people. But my government, by preserving calm and by meeting public needs, is selflessly striving, as far as possible, to safeguard the achievements of the shah-people revolution.

In reply to a question by one of the correspondents on aliens resident in Iran, the prime minister said: Like the rest of our Iranian brothers and sisters, they enjoy full protection, and nothing will trouble them; and these people should not be influenced by the evil propaganda of the opposition.

As regards mourning during the month of Muharram, the prime minister announced: The government has permitted the people to participate in and hold mourning ceremonies in mosques, monasteries and homes, and the government itself, too, is to participate in this mourning.

The above conference came to an end at 1700 today.

NIOC DENIES NEW OIL WORKERS UNION ESTABLISHED

LD051116Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Following recent reports that a new union of Iranian oil industry workers has been formed and its existence made public, the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) today described the reports as a baseless rumor and strongly denied these reports.

A NIOC spokesman, speaking on this matter today, said: In order to handle all aspects of the affairs and problems relating to Iranian oil industry workers, several unions of Iranian oil industry workers were formed some 12 years ago in accordance with progressive labor laws, principles and norms, and through free elections. At present these labor unions are operating as two official unions within the country's oil industry. These unions handle all welfare matters and collective bargaining procedures in accordance with circumstances. The spokesman added: Generally, in view of the existence of already active unions within the country's oil industry, there is no need for other unions, as rumored.

CABINET MAKES TWO RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS OFFICIAL

LDO31851Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The cabinet held a meeting under Prime Minister Gen Gholam Reza Azhari at the prime minister's palace tonight. At this session the country's religious holidays were reviewed and the Tasu'a [9 December] and Arba'in [10 January] were declared as official holidays when all government agencies and ministries will be closed.

SHAH RECEIVES INTERIOR MINISTER, NEW GOVERNOR OF ZANJAN

LDO51524Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 5 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Lt Gen 'Abbas Qarabaghi, minister of the interior, was received in audience by the Shahanshah Aryamehr this afternoon. During the audience the interior minister introduced Lt Gen Hasan Farzadi (retired) to the monarch as the governor general of Zanzan.

PRISONERS PARDONED ON SHAH'S ORDERS

LDO61044Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 6 Dec 78 LD

[Text] On orders from the Shahanshah Aryamehr, supreme commander in chief, 120 people convicted of antisecurity activities and 352 people convicted in military tribunals have been pardoned. The shahanshah's command for the release of the aforementioned convicts has been communicated to the country's prisons.

1979 TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH POLAND

LDO50512Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Negotiations within the sixth Iranian-Polish joint trade commission, which began its session in Warsaw last week, have ended with the signing of a trade protocol. Based on this protocol, the volume of trade exchange between the two countries for 1979 is envisaged to total \$172 million, representing a 10 percent increase over the previous year. One third of Iran's exports to Poland will include traditional Iranian commodities, such as cotton and dried fruit, and the remainder will be manufactured goods such as means of transportation, tractors, agricultural machinery, manufactured domestic appliances and crude oil.

In exchange, Iran will import from Poland foodstuffs such as meat, butter, cheese and machinery and industrial raw materials. Under the two countries' new trade protocol, Poland will increase its purchases of Iranian industrial goods. An understanding has also been reached so that goods jointly manufactured in Iran will be exported to Poland as well as to third countries, particularly northern European countries. It was also decided that the two countries' joint ministerial commission be held in Warsaw next spring.

TEHRAN EXHORTS IRANIANS TO VIGILANCE AGAINST 'ENEMY ATTACK'

LD051244Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0130 GMT 5 Dec 78 LD

[Unidentified commentary]

[Text] Valiant and alert Iranian people, fellow countrymen and women! The enemy of your religion and nationhood is lying in wait, and he wants to sever your religious ties and national unity. Be alert and think! Moslem brothers and sisters! Your religion is the best and your faith is the most truthful. Your extensive country, with its rich natural resources, is under enemy attack. In addition to plundering natural resources, the enemy wants to tarnish your religion, nobility, honor and national identity. Be alert and think!

You, young Iranians have perhaps not known a time when the country was occupied by foreign troops, but your fathers and mothers have known it. Ask them about it so that they can tell you that in those dark days foreign troops were engaged in violating your status, honor and respect of your compatriots; in plundering your country's grains and foodstuffs; and in burning them to make you hungry and enslaved. Be alert and think!

The same cunning enemy is now once again taking advantage of your gullibility; he is concocting fresh rumors every day; he is spreading these rumors through its agents who do not even believe in God, let alone in religion and religious leaders; under the pretext of mourning, the arch martyr and leader of the liberated, Hoseyn Bin 'Ali, peace be upon him, the enemy is creating trouble, broadcasting taperecordings of "Allah is great" and the sound of machinegun fire through loudspeakers, as well as doing many more subversive things. All this is intended to sicken your spirit.

Iranian brother! Recognize your enemy. How could the enemy who does not believe in God in accordance with his invalid philosophy believe in his prophet and in the imams? Do not be deceived by rumors, drive and falsification broadcast by the enemies of religion and the fatherland. Think straight to realize which foreign mouthpiece and which xenophile is putting out such things. Be alert and think and do not be deceived by these Godless people.

AFGHANISTAN

SOVIET-AFGHAN FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION TREATY SIGNED

For Soviet reportage on the signing of a treaty of friendship, neighborliness and cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and additional reportage on events concerning the visit of President Nur Mohammad Taraki to the Soviet Union, see the 5 December South Asia section of the Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

BANGLADESH

ELECTION COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCES POLL SCHEDULE

BK011634Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The chief election commissioner, Mr Justice A.K.M. Nurul Islam, has announced the schedule for the ensuing parliamentary election and called upon all concerned to insure that the elections are free, fair, peaceful and disciplined.

Speaking over radio and television this evening, he said the nomination papers of the candidates for parliamentary seats will be received on the 27th of this month. He said the scrutiny of nomination papers will be held on the following day. The chief election commissioner said the last date for withdrawal of nomination papers will be the 2d of January, while polls will be held on the 27th.

The chief election commissioner said that the election is an essential prerequisite for the nation's transition to democracy. He expressed the hope that the voters realize their responsibilities in this connection and accordingly they will exercise their franchise to make the coming election a success. He also appealed to the political parties to come forward to assist the election commission in building up a noble, democratic tradition and help the nation forge ahead to a democratic way of life.

He said the commission is going ahead with necessary steps to hold the polls. Seventy-eight returning officers have been appointed for 300 single-member constituencies throughout the country. The chief election commissioner said that after corrections and amendment of the voters list, the total number of voters in the country will be about 40 million.

AFP REPORTS OPPOSITION ATTITUDE TOWARD ELECTIONS

BK031217Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1045 GMT 3 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Dacca, Dec 3 (AFP)--Bangladesh's one-time ruling party Awami League has said that the nation "cannot expect anything tangible" from the coming January 27 parliamentary elections which it pointed out cannot be free and fair if held under martial law.

The party, which met yesterday with its President Abdul Malek Ukil in the chair following President Ziaur Rahman's announcement Thursday fixing the date of the elections and outlining the new parliament's powers, however, remained silent on the question of its participation in the elections. The party called for a united movement by opposition parties on a minimum common programme and said this was the only way of recovering "lost rights" of the people.

The Awami League, which was once led by slain Bangladesh leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, accused government ministers of using "aggressive language" against opposition parties and maintained that "polls cannot be held fairly in the circumstances."

Meanwhile, Vice President Justice Abdus Sattar who is also a leader of President Zia's new party, BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] cautioned people that those who were talking of boycotting the coming elections were trying to frustrate the government's efforts to restore democracy in the country. He urged the opposition parties to participate in the elections saying that an elections commission headed by a justice had been entrusted with conducting the polls.

President Zia himself in Thursday's announcement over radio and television appealed to all people, particularly political parties and organisations, to ensure the polls would be held in a "free, fair, impartial and peaceful atmosphere."

Hectic parleys are going on in Dacca among opposition political parties on the question of forming election alliances and related matters. About 20 political parties, which include a breakaway faction of the Awami League led by former Information Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, the Nationalist Socialist Party JSD [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal], a breakaway faction of the late Mualana Bhashani's National Awami Party (now merged with Zia's BNP), the Democratic League of jailed former President Khondoker Moshtaque Ahmed and a section of the United People's Party, UPP, led by President Zia's former Education Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed have been in session during the last 2 days at the residence of Ataur Rahman Khan in Dacca. Informed sources said the parties would meet again today to finalise proposals for an election alliance among them.

The rightist Moslem League led by Khan Abdus Sobur and Islamic Democratic League of Maulana Siddiq Ahmed have already reached an understanding on electoral alliance.

The pro-Moscow National Awami Party of Prof Mazaffar Ahmed and the Communist Party [of Bangladesh], CPB, of Moni Singh have expressed their opposition to holding elections under martial law but have not yet announced whether they would participate in the coming elections.

Meanwhile, President Zia is touring the countryside to mobilise support for his 3-month old party BNP which is forecast to secure an overwhelming majority in the elections.

PRESIDENT ZIAUR RAHMAN TO HEAD DEFENSE SERVICES

BK010958Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 1 Dec 78 BK

[Text] It was officially announced in Dacca today that the president and chief martial law administrator, Maj Gen Ziaur Rahman, shall be the commander in chief of the defense services of Bangladesh.

According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Defense, Major General H.M. Ershad has been appointed the chief of army staff, Bangladesh Army, with effect from today, the 1st of December.

According to another notification, the government has abolished the post of deputy chief of army staff, Bangladesh Army, with effect from today.

INDIA

DESAI: CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE FOR NUCLEAR FUEL

BK021038Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 2 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister has said that is the United States does not supply nuclear fuel for the Tarapore atomic powerplant, India will meet the situation, even with some difficulties.

Mr Morarji Desai told the lower house of parliament that India is very seriously making efforts for alternative arrangements if the American supply does not materialize.

The prime minister made it clear that India will never agree to the inspection of its nuclear installations unless other countries also agree to do it. He said the proposed five-member international committee of scientists will only evolve safeguards against nuclear nonproliferation applicable to all countries.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH USSR IN DELHI

BK021010Y Delhi ISI in English 0833 GMT 2 Dec 78 BK

[Text] V.C. Rajadhyaksha, member of the Planning Commission, and H.N. Inozemtsev, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Planning of the USSR, initialled on 1 December a long-term programme of economic, trade, scientific and technical cooperation between India and the USSR. This programme would now be submitted to the respective governments and would be signed in due course at the appropriate level.

Apart from the continuation of cooperation in traditional sectors of ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy--particularly in connection with the design and construction of the Vishakapatnam steel plant, setting up of an alumina plant in Andhra Pradesh and expanding and modernising steel plants at Bokaro and Bhilai--the programme breaks new ground in fields such as the joint study of specific problems in building high dams and utilisation of the "directed explosion" method. Other areas identified for cooperation include agriculture, animal husbandry--especially regarding the breeding of merino sheep and pashmina goats--application of new technology in geological exploration, and recovery methods in minerals like coking coal, nickel, silicon and cobalt.

In agriculture the programme provides for an exchange of knowhow in areas like high yielding varieties of oilseeds, foodgrains, cotton and pest control. Areas of cooperation identified in the programme relating to science and technology include subjects such as energy and energy resources and important branches of the fundamental sciences and space research.

Cooperation in third countries and production cooperation and specialisation are other important features of the long-term programme. The programme also envisages cooperation in the field of planning, an exchange of knowledge and experience in techniques and methodology of planning.

The agreement visualises a substantial increase in the volume of trade, the strengthening of trade promotional measures, continued supplies of commodities such as petroleum products, fertilizers and nonferrous metals from the Soviet Union, and increased exports of labour intensive consumer goods and agricultural and industrial products.

The programme would have a time span of 10-15 years.

Joint Nuclear Research

BK011535Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1325 GMT 1 Dec 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 1 (AFP)--India and the Soviet Union today agreed to carry out joint nuclear research for peaceful purposes.

The agreement was part of a protocol covering long-term co-operation in areas ranging from agriculture to scientific research that was signed by the two countries here today.

But Soviet signatory Nikolay Inozemtsev, deputy chairman of Gosplan, the Soviet development planning commission, told newsmen later that nuclear co-operation meant neither the supply of enriched uranium to India nor plans for processing nuclear fuel in India. This was a particularly delicate issue in view of U.S. reservations over the continued supply of enriched uranium for the Tarapore atomic power station near Bombay, observers said.

The protocol, covering co-operation over the next 10 to 15 years, allowed for separate agreements leading to first-time Soviet aid in agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation, and the processing of building materials. The protocol also allowed for scientific and technical research and development.

At present, co-operation between the two countries is limited to development of the ferrous and non-ferrous metal industries, oil exploration and heavy chemical industries. Both sides said the protocol laid the foundations for harmonious and long-lasting relations between the two countries.

DATE OF VAJPAYEE VISIT TO PRC NOW SET FOR 1-8 JAN

BKO31024Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1022 GMT 3 Dec 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 3 (AFP)--Indian Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee will make an official visit to China from January 1 to 8, the HINDUSTAN TIMES reported today. The minister's visit had originally been planned for last October but was postponed for health reasons.

CALCUTTA PAPER: PRC WANTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH CPI-M

[By special correspondent]

[Text] New Delhi, 24 November--China wants to improve its relations with the Communist Party of India-Marxist [CPI-M]. The Chinese Communist Party wants to say: Although we have differences of opinion with the CPI-M regarding foreign policy, we still want to improve our relations with it. It has been learned that China indirectly conveyed this attitude through some CCP leaders to the CPI-M delegation led by Ramamurthi which recently visited China.

The CPI-M does not accept China's assessment of the Soviet Union. China believes and proclaims that the Soviet Union is a social-imperialist state, but that is not the CPI-M's view. According to the CPI-M, to call the Soviet Union social-imperialist is a grave mistake and an injustice. The CPI-M has also declared China's three-worlds theory is un-Marxist. Also, the CPI-M largely supports Vietnam in its conflict with China. But despite all these differences, China wants to improve relations with the CPI-M.

In the opinion of political observers there are two reasons for the Chinese attitude. One, China fears that the USSR might win the CPI-M to its side. Chinese observers of Delhi believe that the Soviet Union is doing its best to win the CPI-M's support. Two, Chinese observers of Delhi also believe that the CPI-M is the most powerful communist party in India and like the Communist Party of India it is not the puppet of the Soviet Union. Thus, China believes that any improvement in its relations with the CPI-M will be in its interest.

It should be noted that since the end of the Lin Piao era, China has not formally recognized any naxalite [extremist] communist party in India. Some time in the past the Satyanarayan faction of the CPI-ML [Communist Party of India Marxist-Leninist] tried to obtain formal support from China and for this purpose it even sought the help of Mohammad Toaha, a pro-Peking leader in Bangladesh. China had extended formal recognition to Toaha but refused to do so to the Satyanarayan faction.

DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS TO BE BOOSTED IN ASSAM

BK021614Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The defense minister, Mr Jagjivan Ram, has said that more air force and army centers will be located in Assam in view of the defense requirements of the strategic northeastern region. Addressing a public meeting in (Chinsuktia) near Gauhati today, he said the defense services should reflect the population pattern of the entire country and suggested that more people of the region should voluntarily join the defense services.

Referring to India's relations with neighboring countries, Mr Jagjivan Ram said that we want to maintain friendly relations with China and Bangladesh. But, he said, there can be no compromise so far as the security of the country is concerned.

Earlier, addressing the jawans [soldiers] of the Indian Air Force at (Chagua), the defense minister pointed out that the outstanding border issues between India and China should be settled amicably. He expressed the hope that the issues will be settled during the forthcoming visit of the external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, to Peking.

ZAMBIAN PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES FOR 10-DAY VISIT

BK030322Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Prime Minister of Zambia Daniel Lisulo has arrived in Bombay on a 10-day visit to this country. During his visit, Mr Lisulo will have talks with the Indian leaders to intensify cooperation between the two countries in economic, commercial, technical and the educational fields.

80 CASES FILED AGAINST GANDHI BASED ON SHAH COMMISSION

BK011147Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 1 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The lower house of parliament has been officially informed that 80 civil and criminal cases have been filed so far against Mrs Indira Gandhi, MP and former prime minister, and others on the basis of the findings of the Shah Commission which inquired into the emergency excesses.

Former Defense Minister Guilty

BK041317Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Mr Bansi Lal has been found guilty of abusing his office as defense minister to promote the interests of Maruti Limited. This was the conclusion of the third report of the Jagan Mohan Reddy commission which was placed before parliament today. The commission has found that the army was to buy 50 heavy recovery vehicles from a West German firm which had also entered into collaboration with Maruti for manufacture of the vehicles.

The commission says Mr Bansil Lal contravened government procedures and abused his authority to favor the West German firm and helped it to enter into agreement with Maruti. But there is no evidence (?to say that) Mr Bansil Lal obtained any unlawful gain for himself. The commission also absolved Mr Bansil Lal of complicity in the case of the Boeing deal for the [word indistinct]. It was announced that police procedures have already started against the former defense minister (?on the basis of the commission report).

CABINET SEEKS TO SET UP SPECIAL COURTS TO TRY GANDHI

OW051930Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1843 GMT 5 Dec 78 OW

[Text] New Delhi, 5 Dec (AFP)--The Indian Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Morarji Desai tonight approved a draft bill seeking to set up special courts to try former Premier Indira Gandhi and others for alleged excesses committed during the emergency, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported here. The agency said the bill was expected to be introduced before parliament during the current session for approval.

The cabinet's move came after the supreme court announced on Friday that parliament was constitutionally competent to enact legislation providing for setting up such courts. The court's opinion in the matter was sought by federal President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy last August. Government spokesmen earlier said that the intention of setting up special courts was to speed up the anticipated trials.

The allegations of excesses were investigated by inquiry commissions set up the government during public hearings spread over several months. Besides Mrs. Gandhi and her younger son Sanjay, a few of her then cabinet colleagues and several officials have been accused of being responsible for various excesses.

NEPAL

TIBETAN CONGRESS ASKS KING TO RELEASE TIBETAN DETAINEES

BK021432Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1354 GMT 2 Dec 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 2 (AFP)--The Tibetan Youth Congress here has appealed to King Birendra of Nepal to release all Tibetan political prisoners on the occasion of the "Universal Human Rights Day" on December 10, the Tibetan Bureau here disclosed today. The congress expressed the hope that King Birendra would not hand over Tibetan refugees in his kingdom "to the occupying Chinese forces" in Tibet. In a letter to the Nepalese monarch, President of the Congress Losang Jinpa said all Tibetan "freedom fighters arrested after the mustang disarmament in 1974 are not only political prisoners but are also innocent and most deserving of release from imprisonment."

BRIEFS

INDIAN ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENTS--India has at present bilateral arrangements with 18 countries for cooperation in field of peaceful uses of atomic energy, reports PTI. This information was given by Prime Minister Morarji Desai in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha on November 30. These countries are Afghanistan, Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, the FRG, the GDR, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Libya, Poland, Romania, the United States and the Soviet Union. Such arrangements had lapsed with seven countries including Bangladesh, Brazil, Denmark, the Philippines, Spain, Sweden, and Yugoslavia. [Delhi ISI in English 1436 GMT 30 Nov 78 BK]